

Webb: Iran seeks hegemony

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States is concerned by Iran's push to dominate the Gulf region and will not reduce a large naval force there until U.S. shipping in the waterway is safe, Navy Secretary James Webb said on Wednesday. "You might wonder why the Iranians have had such an objection to our being there and to ceasing allowing them to pump two million barrels of oil a day out," he told a news conference. "The obvious conclusion is that there is a long-term objective from this particular regime to have hegemony in this area of the world... we are concerned because that is the genesis of Iranian belligerence." Mr. Webb, back from a weekend visit to a 28-ship U.S. naval force in the region, said he was encouraged by a growing allied presence in the Gulf and the safe passage of U.S.-escorted Kuwait tankers in the waterway. "We (U.S. forces) are at the point where we can carry out our mission and at the appropriate time downsize that presence to the way it has been over the previous 37½ years and get back to conducting our business as usual around the world," he said.

Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الزاوي

'600 Iranian Jews reached Israel'

ANKARA (AP) — A Turkish newspaper reported on Wednesday that 600 Iranian Jews emigrated to Israel via Turkey and Cyprus under an agreement between Israel and Iran. The Ankara-based newspaper, quoting unidentified diplomatic sources, said the Jews first travelled to Istanbul in groups and then were ferried to the Greek Cypriot port city of Limassol and from there on to the Israeli port of Haifa. Foreign Ministry spokesman Inal Batu said on Wednesday that Turkey was unaware of such a deal and it was in no way involved. When Batu was asked if 600 Jews were transferred to Israel via Turkey, he replied: "I have no knowledge of this." The daily did not say when the transfer took place. The newspaper reported on Monday that Iran agreed to allow 30,000 Jews to emigrate to Israel via Turkey after negotiating with Israel and that Israeli officials travelled to Iran to choose "qualified" Jews, with a special emphasis on technicians. There are an estimated 500,000 Iranians living in Turkey, with most of them in Istanbul, hoping to get asylum in other countries.

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MEA pilots go on strike

BEIRUT (R) — Air traffic at Beirut airport halted on Wednesday when Lebanese pilots announced a 24-hour strike, airport sources said. They said pilots of the Lebanese flag carrier, Middle East Airlines (MEA), campaigning for better working conditions, stopped flying at 2000 local (1700 GMT). The airport is currently only used by a few East European companies apart from MEA.

Lord Soames dies

LONDON (R) — Lord Soames, British statesman who was a son-in-law of Winston Churchill and presided over the transition of Britain's last colony in Africa into independent Zimbabwe, died on Wednesday, his family said. He was 66. Lord Soames was governor of Southern Rhodesia from 1979 to 1980. Lord Soames, who had a varied career as a soldier, politician, diplomat and businessman, was married to Lady Mary Soames, the younger daughter of Churchill, Britain's wartime prime minister.

U.S. supreme court nominee grilled

WASHINGTON (R) — Judge Robert Bork on Wednesday strongly defended his controversial role in the Watergate scandal as the second day of Senate hearings on his nomination to the supreme court got off to a contentious start. Mr. Bork, whose nomination to the nation's highest court has sparked one of the most bitter public debates in a decade, also defended himself against charges that his record on protecting women's rights is poor. Mr. Bork's nomination holds high stakes both for President Reagan and Mr. Bork's liberal opponents, who fear he will work to overturn supreme court rulings legalising abortion and guaranteeing civil liberties and the rights of blacks and women.

Libya denies report of anti-U.S. attack

ROME (AP) — The official Libyan news agency on Wednesday denied a French magazine report that Libyans had been planning to attack the U.S. embassy in Paris. On Sunday, the French newspaper Le Point reported that French police expelled four persons to Libya after foiling a Libyan plan to attack the embassy, apparently on Sept. 1 to coincide with the 18th anniversary of the coup that brought Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi to power.

Israel announces anti-Pretoria 'sanctions'

TEL AVIV (AP) — Senior cabinet ministers decided Wednesday to extend Israeli sanctions against South Africa beyond military restrictions to include further cutbacks in commercial and scientific ties, Israel Radio reported. The decision by the 10-member inner cabinet followed U.S. pressure on Israel to reduce its level of cooperation with the white minority government in Pretoria. Israeli opponents of sanctions have said a cutback in ties would cost Israel millions of dollars a year and thousands of jobs. News reports have said South Africa is a key client of Israel's billion-dollar-a-year arms industry, buying mainly tanks and light firearms.

Iraq, saying Iran rejected all peace efforts, resumes air raids on oil targets

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq unleashed its fighter-bombers to attack Iranian oil centres and a ship in the Gulf Wednesday, saying that Tehran had spurned a U.N. ceasefire resolution and all peace efforts in the seven-year-old Gulf war.

The air raids signalled a new flare-up in the so-called "tanker war" after a six-day lull. Shipping officials braced for Iranian retaliatory attacks on neutral shipping in the southern reaches of the Gulf.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted a military communiqué as saying four air raids were launched against the big Kharg Island oil terminals, the Karang and Baghi-Malek oilfields and the unidentified ship off the Iranian coast.

Tehran's Islamic Republic News Agency IRNA quoted a war information headquarters spokesman as saying Iran would "strongly respond" to Iraq's "mischievous acts."

Both sides had observed an unofficial truce while U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar visited Tehran and Baghdad in what Arab diplomats believe was a futile attempt to get both sides to comply with the Security Council's July 20 ceasefire resolution.

The U.N. chief left Baghdad for New York Tuesday with no clear sign that he had persuaded Iraq to observe a ceasefire. Iraq had said it would if Iran did, but charged Tehran was playing for time until the U.N. General Assembly convenes on Sept. 22.

The Iraqis believe the Iraqis will seek to secure support for major changes in the Security Council resolution to name Bag-

dad "the aggressor." IRNA reported that President Ali-Khamenei would go to New York to address the General Assembly, but did not elaborate. It said the decision had been approved by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

INA quoted military communiqué as saying Wednesday's air strikes were "carried out in implementation of Iraq's right of self-defence following the Iranian regime's insistence in rejecting U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 and all peace efforts."

The Baghdad command said in its communiqué Iraq's air force, which outnumbered Iran's air strength by about 8-1, flew 73 combat missions on Wednesday. Helicopter gunships mounted another 102 sorties against Iranian troops concentrations along the 1,180-kilometre front, inflicting considerable losses, the agency reported.

The Iraqi agency said the first air strike was against the Karang oilfields in Khuzestan province

U.N. chief returns to New York, says Iran and Iraq flexing muscles

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said on Wednesday that his return from talks in Iraq and Iran that both sides in the Gulf war were flexing their muscles.

Asked if he detected flexibility by the two sides in his talks that began last Saturday, Mr. Perez de Cuellar told reporters: "They are both flexing their muscles."

In advance of his report to the Security Council, called into private session within hours of his return to New York, a Western delegate said the outlook for peace was gloomy.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar declined to give details of his talks and he was no more forthcoming on his return to the United Nations, saying only that

he learned what the two sides "had at the back of their minds."

Asked if he was optimistic, he said he did not like that word. Diplomats said Mr. Perez de Cuellar decided to save time by addressing members of the Security Council in person rather than presenting a written account, which would have taken a day or two to prepare.

They said they expected he would have a separate meeting on Thursday with the five permanent members of the Security Council — the United States, the Soviet Union, France, Britain and China. Each has the power of veto.

After the council adopted unanimously on July 20 a resolution demanding an immediate ceasefire in the Gulf war, Mr.

Perez de Cuellar said he would only go to the area if he had assurances that he would not return empty-handed.

Iraq said it would order a ceasefire if Iran did likewise. When Iran failed to make a definitive commitment, the council decided that the secretary general should go to Tehran and Baghdad anyway.

The United States believes the next stage should be a mandatory council resolution imposing an arms embargo against Iran. But diplomats said the outcome for such a move was uncertain.

The Washington Post reported on Wednesday that James Gbeho

Resistance men kill 3 Israeli soldiers in Lebanon battle

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Palestinian and Lebanese resistance fighters have killed at least three Israeli soldiers and wounded four in an eight-hour gunbattle in South Lebanon, Lebanese and Israeli sources reported Wednesday.

Lebanese sources said four Israelis were killed in the clash in Israel's self-designated "security zone."

An army spokesman in Tel Aviv said three Israeli soldiers were killed and four wounded in the ambush, marking the highest Israeli casualty toll in a single confrontation in Lebanon in two years.

Israeli warplanes made several

low passes over South Lebanon villages and Palestinian refugee camps at noon on Wednesday, panicking residents who feared the jets would bomb in retaliation for the ambush.

The jets did not attack, but they broke the sound barrier several times, sending residents to basements and bomb shelters, reporters in Sidon said in telephone dispatches.

Warplanes dropped more than 1,000 flares to light the way for the Israeli search force, which included members of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia, as helicopter gunships strafed nearby hills with machinegun fire.

A resistance statement read on

radio stations in Beirut said there was hand-to-hand fighting. The radio broadcast songs in praise of the anti-Israel struggle and speculated that the casualty toll would top 120.

The Voice of the Homeland Radio said the Israeli defence minister, Yitzhak Rabin, inspected the scene of operations, but the report could not be confirmed.

Security sources quoted by Reuters said resistance fighters and SLA militiamen also fought with machineguns and rockets on Tuesday night near Marjayoun and another sector of the zone's

Carbomb kills 8 in Peshawar

ISLAMABAD (R) — The Pakistani government proposed on Wednesday harsh measures to check a wave of bombings, the latest of which killed at least eight people in the north-western town of Peshawar.

An Afghan guerrilla party said the Peshawar attack in which 37 people were also wounded was aimed at its leader, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who escaped unhurt.

But four bodyguards and a driver in a jeep following one taking Mr. Hekmatyar to a party meeting were wounded by the blast set off by a remote-controlled device, a spokesman for the Hezb-i-Islami party said.

Interior Minister Nasim Ahmad Aheer told parliament the proposed measures would include checks on illegal arms, harsh punishments, heightened police and intelligence vigilance and improving policing.

Aquino partially reshuffles cabinet after Laurel quits

MANILA (Agencies) — President Corazon Aquino on Wednesday named a new finance secretary in a partial reshuffle of ministers hours after her rebellious vice-president broke away from the cabinet.

Mrs. Aquino, in a live television broadcast, named two ex-military men to sensitive posts and rejected criticisms from Vice-President Salvador Laurel that she was not dealing with the country's communist insurgency.

Mr. Laurel, who will stay as vice-president, quit his foreign secretary role and said he would not accept a new post in Mrs. Aquino's cabinet.

"Our nation is like a house on fire," he declared.

Mrs. Aquino named Public Works Secretary Vicente Jayme as the new finance secretary, succeeding Jaime Ongpin whose replacement had been widely anticipated.

Aquino moved to shore up confidence in her crisis-struck government.

Mrs. Aquino also defended her counter-insurgency strategy. "I tried and tried very hard," Mrs. Aquino said. "But even as I explored the path of a negotiated end to insurgency, I made it very clear that if negotiation fails, I would not hesitate to take up the sword of war."

In a press conference earlier, Mr. Laurel accused the administration of having a weak counter-insurgency policy and claimed Mrs. Aquino's government includes people "sympathetic to the communists." He said she plans to retain some of them in the new cabinet.

He stepped down as foreign secretary in the Sept. 9 mass cabinet resignation.

Mr. Laurel's charges appeared to be a major setback in Mrs. Aquino's efforts to restore unity to the government in the wake of an Aug. 28 coup attempt and the cabinet resignations.

Their Majesties begin Swiss visit today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor begin a state visit to Switzerland today at the invitation of President Pierre Aubert. During the visit, the King is expected to hold talks with Mr. Aubert and other Swiss leaders on efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war and to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai is expected to fly to Switzerland today at the head of a delegation to join the King in his talks in Bern.

Reuters said Wednesday the King was likely to focus on the Arab goal of an international Middle East peace conference in his talks with Mr. Aubert.

"The international conference will top the agenda," a well-



placed Jordanian source quoted by Reuters said. "The King may explore possible Swiss mediation (in the Arab-Israeli conflict) as well as providing a conference location."



The King was also expected to discuss United Nations efforts to

halt the seven-year Gulf war. Swiss Ambassador Harald Borner told Reuters Mr. Aubert, who is also foreign minister, would renew an offer to host a U.N.-sponsored conference on the Middle East in Geneva.

"We sustain all efforts to improve the peace process and think an international peace conference may contribute to a solution if all parties agree," Mr. Borner told Reuters.

The King, now in London, is due to spend one day in talks with Mr. Aubert and other Swiss government officials and one day sightseeing, accompanied by the Queen. Their Majesties are then expected to stay for a private holiday.

(Continued on page 4)

Palestinians keep up protests despite tough Israeli measures

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinians clashed with Israeli soldiers on Wednesday in continuing demonstrations in the occupied West Bank marking the fifth anniversary of the massacre of Palestinians in the Shatila and Sabra refugee camps of Beirut.

Israeli soldiers opened fire and lobbed tear-gas canisters to disperse the demonstrators. A 12-year-old Palestinian boy was shot dead in the Balata refugee camp near Nablus on Tuesday, the first day of the new wave of demonstrations.

A student protest broke out at one of the Bethlehem University south of Jerusalem, and Israeli troops clamped a curfew on Balata refugee camp after protesters threw stones, according to an army spokesman.

The worst clashes were in Nablus, 60 kilometres north of Jerusalem, where soldiers fired tear-

gas after dozens of demonstrators threw stones and unfurled Palestinian flags in the marketplace, the Palestine Press Service said.

Soldiers also fired tear-gas and gunshots at the Arab Industrial School in Nablus to disperse Palestinian protesters, according to the Palestine Press Service which monitors news in the occupied territories.

The clashes came a day after Hussein Mohammad Hamdan died from gunshot wounds in the heart and head following a demonstration at Balata.

Hamdan was shot by soldiers in one of four violent confrontations Tuesday in Balata during which two other Palestinians were wounded by Israeli gunfire.

Balata demonstrations continued for a second day Wednesday when protesters hurled rocks into the street and troops swiftly ordered the camp's 15,000 residents indoors until further notice.

the Israeli army said.

There were no reported injuries in Wednesday's violence, the military said, adding that soldiers were surrounding the camp and patrolling the area on foot.

The Israeli army contended that an autopsy on Hamdan had not determined he was killed by troops since the bullet that went through his head had not been found.

However, there were no reports of anyone other than Israeli troops opening fire.

Hamdan's body was brought to hospital by his family several hours later. He was buried overnight.

During a second incident at the same place on Tuesday, hundreds of stone-throwing protesters advanced on Israeli troops outside Balata. But they turned back when the soldiers opened fire and two demonstrators were shot and wounded.

Jordan lodges U.N. protest over Israeli practices

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government on Wednesday complained to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar about Israeli activities in the occupied Arab territories in violation of international laws.

A letter sent to Mr. Perez de Cuellar described aggressive Israeli acts including the takeover of fertile Arab lands, aggression against Arab citizens and the confiscation of Arab properties.

"The Israelis are aiming to implement their settlement plan by pushing out Arabs from their own lands laying hands on it," the letter said.

The letter was submitted by Abdullah Salah, Jordan's permanent representative to the United Nations, with a request that it be circulated to all delegations.

Mr. Salah was elected deputy chairman of the U.N. General Assembly's 42nd meeting, which opened in New York on Tuesday. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the Asian group to the United Nations nominated Mr. Salah to the post which is being filled by Jordan's representative to the world organisation for the fourth time.

PLO denounces U.S. order to close its Washington information centre

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Wednesday denounced a U.S. decision to close its Washington office, saying the move resulted from pressure by pro-Israeli lobbyists.

PLO spokesman Ahmad Abdul Rahman told Reuters: "The PLO will raise this matter at the Arab foreign ministers meeting on Sept. 20 in Tunis. We will ask for a united Arab response to this hostile American action against the Palestinians and the PLO."

He added that the decision, announced late Tuesday because of what a U.S. State Department spokesman described as PLO support for "terrorism," stemmed from pressure by the U.S. Israeli lobby at the start of the race for next year's presidential election.

The spokesman rejected the accusation of PLO support for "terrorism" and said the decision would not affect its international standing.

"The PLO's presence and weight in the international arena, where it is recognised by 127 states as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, will not be affected by the American action," Abdul Rahman said.

He added that the head of the PLO office in Washington would contest the closure in the Amer-

ican courts.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman said Tuesday that the PLO office in Washington had 30 days to close but an observer mission at the United Nations in New York would remain open because it had a special status.

Abdul Rahman told AP the move showed the Americans were being hypocritical when they "pretended they wanted to bring about a peace settlement in the Middle East."

Referring to "electoral considerations," he said prompted the move, Abdul Rahman said "the race for the White House required the support of powerful Zionist lobbies," which would welcome the action.

He said he would bring the issue before the ministerial council of the Arab League, which meets this weekend in Tunis.

Redman said Tuesday a review of the PLO information office's status was prompted by the participation in April at the Palestine National Congress of groups "having a history of involvement with terrorism."

He picked out the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), which rejoined the mainstream PLO in April.

Redman also cited the PLO's contacts with Palestinian guerrillas Abu Nidal and Abu Abbas, both wanted in the United States for "on terrorism" charges.

He said there was no evidence anyone at the office had committed any illegal act and that it would not affect their rights under the first amendment guaranteeing free speech.

The action was denounced by the Arab League's U.S. representative, Ambassador Clovis Maksoud, who said it was clearly reached under pressure from the U.S. Israeli lobby.

Mr. Maksoud said the move "will be likely seen in the Arab World as an attempt to silence the voice of the Palestinians in the United States and to prevent them from acquainting the American public with their just grievances."

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) denounced the closure as unconstitutional and offered to help fight it in court.

Redman said the closure of the office would not affect the rights of U.S. citizens and permanent residents to continue to promote the PLO cause.

"The U.S. fully supports the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and respects their efforts to achieve these rights through a process of peaceful

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Shultz reports 'some progress' in arms talks

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State George P. Shultz reported "some progress" Wednesday on arms control issues as he renewed pre-summit talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze.

The headway, Mr. Shultz said, had been reached by a group of U.S. and Soviet negotiators and weapons experts who met for three hours Tuesday night and also by a separate group dealing with bilateral questions.

"They made some progress," the minister (Mr. Shevardnadze) and I agreed while they weren't perfect they were the best we had," he said.

He did not provide any details in his brief exchange with reporters after meeting for more than an hour with Mr. Shevardnadze

at the State Department.

Despite downward U.S. forecasts, the two sides have made muted claims of progress since the talks began Tuesday.

The discussions are designed to iron out differences over a treaty banning U.S. and Soviet intermediate-range nuclear missiles and over human rights and Afghanistan.

Charles E. Redman, the department spokesman, said that the morning agenda was devoted to arms control issues and that Mr. Shultz had received reports from the U.S. members of the working groups before the meeting began.

In addition to the private Shultz-Shevardnadze talks, the format of the Soviet ministers' visit includes plenaries involving

the full U.S. and Soviet delegations and smaller working groups of experts on specific issues, such as nuclear testing.

Vice-President George Bush continued the upbeat tone adopted by U.S. officials during the first three days of talks that end on Thursday.

"I believe we're on the verge of something historic here and I want to be the guy that carries that agenda forward around the world," Mr. Bush, a candidate for the Republican Party's 1988 presidential nomination, said in a television interview.

On Tuesday, Mr. Shultz pronounced the initial meetings between the two ministers "straightforward, businesslike and constructive."

He predicted progress on nuclear testing, chemical weapons and human rights, specifically on Soviet Jewish emigration.

Mr. Shevardnadze told reporters the talks had given both sides a better understanding of their differences on an INF treaty, which would be the first super-power arms accord in nearly a decade.

It would cover ground-based missiles with a range of 500 to 5,000 kilometres, including Soviet SS-20 and U.S. Pershing-2 and cruise missiles. It would require Moscow to scrap more than 1,400 warheads and the United States, less than 400.

But Mr. Shevardnadze said, "many issues remain."

There is "desire for an agreement, but desire is not enough," he added.

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Hobeika, senior priest injured in Zahle blast

BEIRUT (AP) — The Greek Catholic archbishop of east Lebanon and Elie Hobeika, a Syrian-backed Christian militia leader, were wounded in a bomb explosion at the archbishopric in Syrian-policed Zahle during the night, police reported Wednesday.

A police statement said a militiaman was killed and 30 others, including Monsignor Andre Haddad and Mr. Hobeika, were wounded in what appeared to be an attempt to assassinate the militia leader.

Police said the archbishop's wounds were "critical," while Mr. Hobeika suffered only superficial cuts.

Mr. Hobeika and aides were meeting Monsignor Haddad at the archbishopric in Zahle, 31 miles (50 kilometres) east of Beirut, when the bomb went off 9.30 p.m. (1830 GMT), the statement added.

Civil defence rescuers and Syrian soldiers pulled the archbishop, Mr. Hobeika and aides from under the rubble and rushed them to a nearby hospital.

"Monsignor Haddad suffered critical injuries and was still in the intensive care unit on Wednesday. Mr. Hobeika was discharged after wounds were bandaged,"

the statement added. The man killed was one of Mr. Hobeika's bodyguards, the statement said. The wounded also were members of Mr. Hobeika's militia.

Mr. Hobeika is at odds with both Lebanon's Falangist President Amin Gemayel and the present leadership of the Lebanese Forces, the Falangists' main militia.

As commander of the Lebanese Forces, Mr. Hobeika signed in December 1985, a Syrian-backed peace accord with Lebanon's main Muslim leaders, seeking to end Lebanon's 12 years of civil war.

Israeli-backed hardliners within the Lebanese Forces were angered by concessions Mr. Hobeika offered to the Muslims.

Mr. Gemayel, a Maronite Catholic, saw Mr. Hobeika as a major challenge to his influence within the Falangist community.

The hardliners, led by Samir

Geagea, teamed up with Mr. Gemayel's supporters and ousted Mr. Hobeika on Jan. 14, 1986, after bloody street fighting in east Beirut and the Falangist heartland to the north.

Mr. Geagea has since headed the Lebanese Forces.

Mr. Hobeika now shuttles between Zahle, where he has several hundred militia followers, and Damascus, Syria, where he has a base.

Zahle, a predominantly Greek Catholic city of 100,000 inhabitants, is policed by Syrian troops who have controlled East Lebanon's Bekaa Valley since 1976.

The explosion at the archbishopric was the second that day, targeting a Syrian-backed official.

Earlier Tuesday a bomb was exploded at the residence in Sidon of prominent Sunni Muslim parliament member Dr. Nazih Bizri, wounding five visitors. The wounded were patients waiting to be examined by Dr. Bizri, who also is a leading physician in Sidon, 40 kilometres south of Beirut.

Hassan Sabra, a journalist who



Elie Hobeika

recovering at the American University Hospital on Wednesday, two days after he was shot and wounded by an unidentified gunman in mainly Muslim west Beirut.

Hospital officials said Mr. Sabra, 38, publisher-editor of the Ash Shura weekly magazine, has been moved out of the intensive care unit after his condition stabilised.

The attempt on Mr. Sabra's life was yet another challenge to Syria's effort to restore security to the western sector of the Lebanese capital.

Last February, the Syrians sent an estimated 7,500-man contingent into west Beirut, which had been plagued by inter-militia fighting, assassinations, robberies and kidnappings.

Syria is the main power-broker in Lebanon. It has maintained troops for 11 years in north and east Lebanon under an Arab League peacekeeping mandate.

Swiss hand over Irangate bank records to U.S.

BERNE (R) — Switzerland has sent the United States the first of thousands of Geneva bank records tracing the "Swiss connection" in the Iranagate affair and the rest should follow soon, the Justice Ministry said on Wednesday.

A spokesman said information on two accounts was sent to Washington on Monday. The majority of documents, including key ones relating to Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North and retired Air Force Major-General Richard Secord, remain blocked pending appeals to a cantonal court in Geneva.

The appeals by Albert Hakim, a business partner of Gen. Secord, and Iranian arms dealer Manucher Ghorbanifar, are procedural, the spokesman said.

The bank records relate to about 20 American, Iranian, Swiss and Saudi Arabian individuals and companies, and trace the proceeds from U.S. arms sales to Iran which were alleged to have been passed to anti-government "contra" rebels in Nicaragua.

Their release has been delayed since December while various individuals challenged the Swiss government's decision to cooperate with U.S. investigators.

Vanunu denied meeting with priest, girlfriend

TEL AVIV (AP) — A district court rejected an appeal Wednesday from a former nuclear technician charged with treason who sought permission to meet with his girlfriend and a priest. The court said such meetings could jeopardise Israeli security.

The three-page ruling also denied requests by Mordechai Vanunu, 32, to telephone relatives or receive food parcels, but said he could send tape-recorded messages to friends and family and listen to a radio in jail.

Ethiopia seeks to avert another famine

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopia, haunted by the great famine of 1984 and 1985, is locked in a race against time to avert another food disaster.

Drought has destroyed food crops in the heavily-populated north and damaged them in several other regions, while locusts may yet prove a menace.

"I think the problem is going to be fairly widespread," said David Morton, director of operations for the World Food Programme, which was among the first aid agencies to sense a new crisis looming.

"But it's too soon to quantify precisely. I can't say if it's going to be better or worse than '85," he added.

The government's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) warned a month ago that no matter how much rain fell in August and September, it envisaged a significant shortfall in food.

Earlier this month it estimated Ethiopia would need 950,000 tonnes of relief food in 1988, a figure which suggests that at least five million of its 46 million people could be at risk.

Many relief agency workers, while saying it is too early to tell just how bad the harvest will be, believe the RRC estimate could prove conservative.

"I would certainly say it is not exaggerated," said Ingo Loerbrocks, the Food and Agriculture

Organisation (FAO) representative in Addis Ababa.

The relief officials said famine in the worst hit northern province of Eritrea, where successive rebels are at war with government troops, face near total loss.

The only hope is that erratic showers may mean the rains will continue beyond September, when the year's second seasonal downpour usually ends.

The RRC, in its report a month ago, identified an anchor-ship area running down the centre of the country and branching east and south west where crop failure or losses were highly probable.

Ships plying Gulf waters fear fresh attacks

DUBAI (R) — Vessels plying the dangerous waters of the Gulf fear a resurgence in shipping attacks after the apparent failure of a U.N. bid to enforce a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war.

Shippers and diplomats in the region did not expect a lull that held during U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's four-day visit to Tehran and Baghdad to last long.

"The U.N. fellow is out of town now, so they (Iraq and Iran) will be back to business as usual. They're going to start," one shipping agent said.

Less than a day after Mr. Perez de Cuellar's departure from Baghdad on Tuesday, Iraq was threatening to destroy whole Iranian cities if Tehran continued to shell Iraqi towns.

Accusing Iran of hitting the southern port of Basra on Tuesday night, a Baghdad military spokesman said: "The Iraqi air force is able to send 100 aircraft to attack each Iranian city to retaliate for Iran's bombardment of Iraqi residential areas."

Mr. Perez de Cuellar refused to comment on his four-day mission to Tehran and Baghdad before reporting to the Security Council other than to say he had received "very clear responses" from both belligerents.

Iran reiterated demands that Iraq be branded aggressor in the seven-year-long war before agreeing to a ceasefire.

Iraq denied starting the conflict and pressed for an international arms embargo against Iran. It has agreed to a mutual ceasefire, but has also repeatedly warned it would not allow Iran to take advantage of breaks in the fighting to build up its economic and

military strength. Shipping sources and diplomats expect Iraq to resume raids on Iranian shipping and oil targets, prompting retaliatory raids by Tehran.

One shipping agent with long experience here predicted Iraq would hit Iran's vital Kharg Island oil export terminal in the northern Gulf within days.

"If Iraq attacks Kharg Island, Iran will hit tankers," the agent said. Iran in the past has retaliated by striking shipping associated with Baghdad's Gulf Arab backers.

More than 350 vessels have been attacked by Iraq or Iran since the war spilled over into Gulf shipping lanes in 1981. Iranian gunboats last attacked a Cypriot tanker on Sept. 10, while Iraq claimed to have hit a vessel the same day.

Western diplomats dismissed hopes Iraq might avoid shipping attacks until a U.N. vote on an arms embargo, to which they suggested the Soviet Union held the key.

Moscow, which has veto power as one of the five permanent members of the Security Council with the United States, Britain, France and China, has been reluctant to support an embargo.

The Soviets are major arms supplier to Iraq but have also sought to expand links with Iran while protecting recent diplomatic gains in the Arab World, diplomats said.

But the Arabs, said one Western diplomat, "are a bit fed up with them trying to be all things to both parties."

Kuwait chartered three tankers from the Soviet Union in a move by the northern Gulf emirate to

protect its oil exports from Iranian attack. Moscow also recently established diplomatic ties for the first time with two other Gulf Arab states, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

"The Soviets won't want to sacrifice their gains here in the Middle East," a diplomat said, adding that a Soviet veto on an arms embargo would mean "a set-back for one of their fundamental goals — to establish relations with Saudi Arabia."

Saudi newspapers said or Wednesday Iran did not intend to accept a ceasefire, and the daily Al Yom called for U.N. pressure to force Tehran to comply.

The Kuwaiti daily Al Rai A. Aam criticised countries who "refuse to commit themselves to a clear and supportive position to impose sanctions."

One diplomat suggested that "pre-empt an embargo, Moscow might try to 'peg it' to the withdrawal of Western forces from the Gulf." Moscow says the presence of nearly 70 Western warships in the region — it has its own — violated a U.N. resolution not to aggravate tension.

Diplomats said the greatest fear was the broadening of the conflict through an accident, like the Iraqi attack on the U.S. frigate Stark in which 37 American seamen died in mid-May.

"I don't exclude a mistake," that might trigger off a conflict," the diplomat said.

The United States is deeply involved in the Gulf, providing naval escorts for 11 Kuwaiti tankers now flying the American flag. Britain and France have naval vessels in the region, while Italy, the Netherlands and Belgium are also sending warships.

Libya recruits Lebanese to fight in Chad

BEIRUT (AP) — Libya has recruited more than one thousand impoverished leftist Lebanese militiamen as mercenaries to fight in Chad and plans to begin airlifting them to North Africa via Syria next week, militia sources disclosed Wednesday.

At least 1,000 militiamen of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) of Druze warlord Walid Junblatt, and more than 200 from the pro-Moscow Lebanese Communist Party and two other Syrian-backed leftist militias, have already signed up, the sources said.

The pro-Syrian groups are the Arab Democratic Party, based in Lebanon's northern port city of Tripoli, and the Popular Nasserite Organisation, which controls the southern port of Sidon, the sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, added.

The recruiting of the mercenaries is continuing despite the acceptance by Libya and Chad

last week of a truce worked out by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

The two neighbouring African states have been engaged in an intermittent border war throughout the current decade. The latest flareup of fighting, which began in January, has been marked by a series of heavy Libyan defeats.

The main mercenary recruiting centre in Lebanon is in the Druze town of Ein Zhalta, in the Shouf Mountains south east of Beirut, where PSP officials are making travel arrangements for the mercenaries, the sources said.

Some 500 PSP recruits are expected to be flown to the Libyan capital, Tripoli, via Syria's Damascus airport, next week, with the rest the week after, the sources added.

Mr. Junblatt is on close terms with Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi, who has frequently supplied weapons to the PSP, the most powerful Lebanese militia

in Lebanon's 12-year-old civil war against the Falangists.

A PSP official, who also requested anonymity, said the Druze force will be commanded by PSP Central Committee Member Jamal Hamad.

He added that the force, which includes artillery officers, engineers and doctors, as well as infantrymen, will be stationed behind Libyan army lines on the Chad battlefield.

The other sources said the mercenaries are being paid from \$500 for a private, to \$1,000 for an officer, with extra allowances for those married.

Each recruit is given an advance of six months salary on signing up for one year's service. The next-of-kin of those killed in action will receive \$20,000 compensation, the sources added.

Such terms are very attractive in view of the severe unemployment problem and the economic crisis gripping Lebanon.

France to seek Soviets missing in Libya after Chadian raid

PARIS (R) — France is helping the Soviet Union in a search for two Soviet military advisers reportedly missing after Chadian troops raided southern Libya, the Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday.

A ministry spokesman said the Soviets had been stationed at a Libyan airbase destroyed by French-supplied Chadian forces in a lightning cross-border raid on Sept. 5.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday two military specialists were missing in Libya but gave no further details.

The French spokesman said the Soviet ambassador in Paris, Yakov Ryabov, had asked France to seek information about their whereabouts.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 73111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

18:00	Koran
18:50	Programme Review
19:55	Cartoons
19:55	Children's programmes
19:55	Children's Scientific programme
19:55	Kids of Degraat Street
19:55	Lorne Greene
19:55	Arabic series
19:55	Health and Life (Arabic)
19:55	Local News reports
19:55	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:00	Arabic series
21:30	Local contests programme
21:45	Arabic series
23:00	News summary in Arabic
23:10	Arabic film cont'd.

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00	Rue Carnot
18:30	Le festival de jazz
19:00	News in French
19:15	French varieties
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Varities
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Kate and Alice (Comedy)
21:00	Master Work
21:10	Not that kind of People
21:30	News in English
22:20	Feature film: "Smugglers"

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM
& partly on 95.0 KHz. SW
Tel: 73111-19

07:00	Light Music
07:30	Newscast
08:00	Morning Show
10:00	News Summary
10:05	Morning Show Cont'd.
11:00	Country Music
11:30	Hillville: The story of Motown
12:00	News Summary
12:05	Now Music
13:00	News Summary
13:05	Pop Session
14:00	News Bulletin
14:10	Instrumentals
14:30	Discovering Music
15:00	News Summary
15:05	Instrumentals
16:30	Old Favourites
17:00	Minute Theatre
17:30	Pop Session
18:00	News Summary
18:05	Special Feature
19:00	Music
19:00	Newscast
19:30	Date with a Star
20:00	Evening Show

FOR FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 73111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

18:00	Koran
19:20	Programme Review
19:25	Cartoons and Children's programme
19:50	The Little's
19:55	Religious series
20:00	Friday's prayer
20:30	Spot magazine
20:55	Religious seminar
21:25	Candle Camer
21:30	English series
21:35	Decoratory
21:35	Viewers' choice (Arabic)
19:30	News programme
19:50	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	A programme on the World
21:00	Arabic Series
22:00	Arabic Series
23:00	News summary in Arabic

21:00	News Summary
21:05	Evening Show Cont'd.
21:55	News Summary
22:00	Evening Show Cont'd.
22:05	News Summary
23:05	Evening Show Cont'd.
23:57	News Headlines
24:00	Close Down

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1323 KHz

07:00	Newscast
07:30	International Soccer Special 07:45 Reflections 07:50
08:00	Classical Record 08:00 World News 08:02 24 Hours: News Summary 08:30 Peaches: Choice 08:45 The World Today 09:00 Newscast 09:30 Time for Choice 09:40 The Farming World 10:00 World News 10:00 24 Hours: News Summary 10:30 The Best of Britain 10:45 News UK 11:00 World News 11:00 Reflections 11:15 Country Style 11:30 John Peel 12:00 World News 12:00 British Press Review 12:15 The World Today 12:30 Financial News: Look Ahead 12:45 On God's Service 13:00 News Summary 13:30 Summer Listening 14:00 The World Today 14:15 Of Time 14:20 News About Britain 14:15 New Ideas 14:25 A Letter from England 14:30 Powerful Solutions 15:00 Radio Newscast 15:00 Music 2 — Top Twenty 15:45 Sports Round-up 16:00 World News Network 24 Hours: News Summary 16:30 The World UK 16:45 The Spinners 17:00 Outlook: Open up News Summary 17:15 Write On! — 16:00 Radio Newscast 18:15 The Pleasure's Yours 19:00 World News 19:00 Commentary 19:15 Powerful Solutions 19:45 The World Today 20:00 World News 20:20 A Letter from Scotland 20:15 Meridian 20:45 Sports Roundup 21:00 Newscast 21:30 Discovery 22:00 News Summary: Outlook

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9565, 11740,
11925 and 15210 KHz

06:00	News 06:10 Newscast 06:30 VOA Morning 07:00 News 07:10 Newscast 07:30 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 Newscast 08:30 VOA Morning 08:40 News 09:10 Newscast 09:30 VOA Morning 10:00 News 10:10 Newscast 10:30 VOA Morning 10:40 News 11:00 News 11:10 Special English News & Features 20:00 News 21:00 News 20:30 Magazine Show 21:00 News 21:10 Focus 21:30 Special English News & Features 22:00 News 22:10 Newscast 22:30 Music 23:00 News & Editorial 23:15 Music USA Jazz 24:00 News 24:10 World Report
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PROGRAMME TWO

17:30	"L'Embrasse" (teletext)
19:00	News in French
19:15	French varieties
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Varities
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	The Cosby show
21:10	Falcon Crest
22:00	News in English
22:20	Inside Story (mini series)

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM
& partly on 95.0 KHz. SW
Tel: 73111-19

07:00	Light Music
07:30	Newscast
08:00	Morning Show
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18:00	News Summary
18:05	Special Feature
19:00	Music
19:00	Newscast
19:30	Date with a Star
20:00	Evening Show



Minister of Foreign Affairs Taber Masri receives the credentials of newly-appointed U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Roscoe Suddarth in a Wednesday presentation (Petra photo).

Suddarth presents credentials to Masri

AMMAN (J.T.) — The newly-appointed U.S. ambassador to Jordan, Roscoe S. Suddarth, on Wednesday presented a copy of his credentials to Foreign Minister Taber Masri.

Mr. Suddarth replaces Paul Boeker, who had served as U.S. ambassador to Jordan since 1984. Mr. Suddarth, 52, had served as deputy assistant secretary of state for Middle East Affairs before

arriving in Amman last week for his new post. The Arabic-speaking career diplomat had served as deputy chief of the U.S. mission in Jordan from 1975 to 1979, and later held the same post in Saudi Arabia. He served in North Yemen in the 1960s, and assumed other posts in the foreign service. The new ambassador, who was born in Louisville, Kentucky in 1935, is married with two children.

New job assistance office to be opened

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Labour and Social Development will open a special office for finding work for Jordanian job seekers, according to an announcement here Wednesday.

The announcement said that the office, which will be located within the premises of the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions compound at Shmeisani, will be operational as of the beginning of the coming month.

The decision to open the office was made by the Minister of Labour and Social Development, Khaled Haj Hassan, who urged job seekers to request help from the new office for finding employment in their fields of specialisation.

According to the announcement, the employment office in 'Abd Hussain, which used to

assist the unemployed, will be used only for issuing work permits to non-Jordanians.

The new arrangement follows Tuesday's discussions by a special committee charged with implementing measures to deal with the unemployment problem in the Kingdom. Meeting under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, the committee discussed recommendations for offering vocational training to community college and school graduates to qualify them for employment in Jordanian businesses.

The committee, of which Mr. Haj Hassan is a member, will be holding other meetings over the coming days to discuss matters related to the problem of unemployment.

Cabinet forms special income tax committee

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet has decided to form a higher committee on income tax, to be charged with providing recommendations on the amendment of application of the Jordanian income tax law.

The committee, which will be chaired by Finance Minister Hanna Odeh, will be comprised of: the under secretaries of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply, the director of the Income Tax Department, the deputy gov-

ernor of the Central Bank of Jordan, the dean of the Faculty of Economics and Trade at the University of Jordan, and representatives from the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the Association of Banks in Jordan, associations of insurance companies, as well as Jordanian contractors, the director of a Jordanian shareholding company, a Jordanian lawyer, and the legal adviser to the Income Tax Department.

Khayyat confers with Iraqi council official

BAGHDAD (J.T.) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat conferred in Baghdad Wednesday with Mr. Izzat Ibrahim, vice-deputy chairman of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council.

They reviewed Jordanian-Iraqi relations in general, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra. Iraqi Minister of Awqaf Abdullah Fadel attended the meeting.

Earlier Mr. Fadel and Sheikh Khayyat held talks on a number of subjects pertaining to religious affairs. They were expected to sign an agreement designed to launch joint cooperation in the field of Da'wa (call for religion).

Sheikh Khayyat arrived in Baghdad on Monday for the meeting, accompanied by senior ministry aides.

Student group visits Maan

MAAN (Petra) — Participants in a four-day orientation programme organised by the Jordanian Chapter of Forum Humanum visited Maan Wednesday and toured the home of the late King Abdullah, grandfather of His Majesty King Hussein and founder of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The home is being transformed into a national museum by the Tourism Authority and the Department of Antiquities. The participants, all students who finished their tawjih examinations this summer, were also taken to other archaeological and historical sites in the Maan district, and met with Mr. Jamal

Momani, Maan acting governor, and local officials.

The students continued their touring on Wednesday and met with Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) President Bassam Qaqish upon directives of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent. Mr. Qaqish explained to the students ARA activities and various projects aimed at developing the Aqaba region and activating domestic and foreign tourism to the port city.

The students also watched a documentary showing the importance of Aqaba to Jordan and its key location in the centre of the Arab World.

Food quality standards meeting reviews reports

AMMAN (Petra) — Delegates from 12 Arab countries Wednesday continued their meetings in Amman to discuss standards, specifications, and quality control of food industries in the Arab World.

The participants reviewed two working papers related to quality control of dairy products sold in

the local markets. The papers also outlined the role of Arab ministries of supply in maintaining control over the production of foodstuffs and imported food supplies.

The meetings are being held at the Amman-based Arab Organisation of Administrative Sciences.

Strategic Conference reports review evolution of Arab Order

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The first Strategic Conference, held at the University of Jordan, continued its working sessions on Wednesday as participants sought to outline the dangers confronting the Arab World and the basis of a unified Arab strategy.

The conference, entitled "The Arab Order: The Current Situation and the Future Challenges," is the first of its kind, and has been jointly organised by the University of Jordan Centre for Strategic Studies and the Egyptian Al Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies. Consequently, all the papers have been prepared by professors from the University of Jordan and Egyptian scholars and strategic thinkers.

Other participants represent a number of Arab countries including, Sudan, Kuwait, Bahrain, Iraq, Libya, and Lebanon. The subjects discussed in the conference covered the modern history of the Arab World, its economic development, and its defence challenges and capabilities.

All the issues and papers, however, were presented within the comprehensive context of the "Arab Order."

Although the participants did not seem to agree on a specific definition of the Arab Order, they all endorsed the idea that the prevailing Arab Order started with the formation of the Arab League in 1945.

In the participants' view, the Arab League, "has so far been the political framework of the Arab Order." General assessments and views expressed throughout the first two days of the conference reflected a consensus that the Arab League "could not and still remains unable to represent and reflect the Arab goals and aspirations towards integration and unity."

Criticism of the Arab League, however, was not directly aimed at the body per se, as much as citing the organisation to reflect the prevailing splits, divisions, and lack of consensus in the Arab World.

In his opening speech, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, warned that the present Arab Order, as it

emerged following the foundation of the Arab League, "was heading towards demise."

During the discussions which followed, most participants agreed with the Prince's assessment, but differed amongst themselves in their analysis of the factors which could lead to the collapse of the Arab Order. The differences in the views expressed were even sharper over the possible alternatives or strategies to confront the serious challenges facing the Arab World.

The discrepancies in the opinions stemmed basically from the varied ideological backgrounds of the participants. In general, however, the influence of an Islamic trend, albeit not unified, was considerably evident.

Throughout the sessions there were strong arguments, voiced particularly by some Egyptians and Kuwaitis, which called for the expansion of the democratic freedoms and popular participation in the Arab World, the pursuit of an independent development course, as well as the endorsement of a long-term strategy based on the premises that the U.S. and Israel "were strategic enemies of the Arab nation."

But there were also voices which defended the prevailing status quo and expressed more "conciliatory" approaches towards the Israeli-Arab conflict. The main argument of this group was "that the only other alternative would be revolutions, chaos, and unrest."

The sessions included interesting debates about the historical analysis contained in the working papers, particularly those concerning the Ottoman Empire, the late Egyptian Jamal Abdul Nasser's era and role, the evolution of the Israeli-Arab conflict, and the interaction between the "progressive" and the "conservative" Arab countries.

Debates over concepts and the terminology used in the papers and comments characterised all the sessions. Some scholars called for new definitions for "concepts, terminologies, and political categories" which are widely used but "are losing their substance in the process since they lack clear definitions."

The five sessions of the conference were divided into three themes: the modern history of the

modern Arab Order; the political economy of the Arab World; and the defence challenges of the Arab World.

On Monday, a group of University of Jordan historians, professors, and researchers presented four historical analysis papers covering the period from 1914-1987. The papers explored the historical background of the modern Arab Order, the factors which contributed to its shaping, including the British and French roles, and developments which followed the formation of the Arab League.

During Wednesday's morning session, Egyptian political economists presented two papers on the economic developments and changes in the Arab World within the perspective of Arab national security. The papers outlined the main features of the economic development process in the Arab World, and pointed out the manifestations of and stressed the dangers of economic surveillance and dependency. They also explored the negative effects of the regional conflicts as well as inter-Arab divisions on economic development and emphasised the link between economic development and national security.

During the evening session on Wednesday, Egyptian military strategists presented a paper entitled "The Arab Order Under Threat," in which the military aspects and dimensions of the current and future challenges were stressed.

A number of Jordanian and Egyptian military personnel attended all the discussions and actively participated in the debates, especially on defence issues.

The conference is scheduled to conclude on Thursday morning when two "strategic papers" will be presented for discussion and approval. The two papers, which are expected to include the main points raised throughout the conference, shall be considered as a final communiqué to sum the conclusions reached during the proceedings.

The second Strategic Conference will be held in Cairo next year. (A detailed report on the proceedings of the three-day conference will appear in Saturday's Jordan Times).

Police chiefs conference ends

Meeting calls for security to play greater role in national development

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Arab police chiefs wound up two days of discussions on Wednesday calling for direct participation by security apparatus in drawing up national socio-economic development plans of individual Arab states as a first step towards eliminating root causes of crime.

"Development planning cannot be complete and accurate if the security aspects related to the scheme are not considered," said one of the conference's recommendations.

These two suggestions were based on the detailed discussions on the relationship between development and comprehensive security, a subject which was given keen attention by key speakers and experts attending the meeting.

One of the papers submitted to the conference on this theme suggested a close relationship between behavioural delinquencies and a regress in the country's socio-economic standards. Hence, bridging the gap between each society's living standards, combating poverty, and increasing citizens' educational standards were suggested as remedies to decrease the rate of crime.

The 12th Conference for Arab Police Chiefs was opened on Tuesday with a keynote address from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent. In his speech, the Regent called for pan-Arab cooperation in security matters to consolidate the region's position in facing the numerous threats challenging it.

The Crown Prince said police, the judiciary, and the various government departments should combine efforts to ensure security, legitimacy, and supremacy of law and to guarantee human and individual rights.

The event was sponsored by the Arab League's Council of Arab Interior Ministers.

Topics of the seminar's working agenda touched on assessing

and the implemented resolutions of former conferences, the concept of comprehensive security, the role of the police in investigation and in protecting archaeological sites, means of encouraging private and public institutions in combating crime, and subjects to be discussed during the forthcoming meeting of the International Police Organisation (INTERPOL).

The senior police delegations praised Jordan's success in implementing the concept of comprehensive security, where police stations assume partial social services in addition to providing security, and called on member countries to adopt a similar strategy within their different capabilities and security limits.

On the role of police and investigation, the conference called on participating countries to give more attention in selecting highly-qualified crime investigation teams.

To offer incentive for public and private associations in fighting crime, the meeting called on member delegates to develop their policies on education, media, culture, and socio-economics to help the public combat crime.

The establishment of councils for halting crime, grouping security and other representatives of the various institutions involved in crime prevention, was called for by the meeting.

The delegations unanimously supported a suggestion to nominate Public Security Department (PSD) Director Lieutenant-General Abdul Hadi Al Majali to represent the Asia region for the



Lt.-Gen. Abdul Hadi Al Majali

position of deputy president for the Paris-based INTERPOL. They also endorsed naming a Sudanese police candidate to represent the African area in INTERPOL's executive committee. These two nominations will be supported by the member delegations during the 56th forthcoming meeting of INTERPOL.

On the works of the Arab Sports Federation for Police, a recommendation called on each member country to maintain an active participation in the league's activities.

In addition, they decided to hold the 13th conference for Arab police chiefs in Tunisia during the same period next year.

In his speech to the closing session, Lt.-Gen. Majali, president of the current conference session, expressed his gratitude for the conference's "constructive discussions and participation."

"The outcome of the Amman meetings will give a further push for all Arab security forces towards more cooperation in related matters and towards facing the future challenges," he added.

The meeting also sent two cables to His Majesty King Hussein and Prince Hassan, the Regent. In their two cables, the conference thanked King Hussein and Prince Hassan for their patronisation of the 12th conference, and for the warm welcome and hospitality which they were accorded during their stay here.

Anti-drug training course begins at police academy

AMMAN (Petra) — A training course in methods of combating narcotics and forgery opened at the Police Academy in Amman on Wednesday.

The opening session was addressed by Colonel Mohammad Al Bassoul, the academy director, who underlined the importance of the course in providing skills in the fight against drugs. Col. Bassoul noted that

drugs have become a very serious problem, adversely affecting social and economic development.

The 35 participants will hear lectures on measures for fighting drug trafficking and addiction. Also on Wednesday, a training course attended by 45 police officers who are in charge of police stations around the country ended at the academy.

Armed Forces chief returns home

AMMAN (Petra) — Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker returned home on Wednesday from London. Marshal Sharif Zaid had accompanied His Majesty King Hussein on a private visit to Britain.

Women's club, USAID encourage awareness among working women

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Business and Professional Women's Club (BPWC) in Amman, in cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), will produce a series of simple brochures aimed at spreading awareness among urban and rural women of their rights and duties in society and at work.

The brochures, funded by a USAID grant to \$35,000, will be produced by the legal staff of BPWC. Although they are primarily aimed at women, the brochures will discuss social and labour

issues of common concern to both men and women.

Initially, the brochures will cover such issues as: "Marriage," "Divorce and Separation," "Labour Laws," "Estate and Inheritance," and "Landlord and Tenant — Rights and Responsibilities." Other issues of concern will be covered at a later date.

Each brochure will briefly state the applicable law and give a clear Arabic language explanation with a sample situation. The information contained in these brochures will answer the readers' questions and encourage

readers to contact the BPWC for additional guidance and information. The brochures will be distributed widely throughout the country.

The USAID grant agreement for the production of these brochures was signed Wednesday by BPWC President Hind Abdul Jaber and Mr. Lewis Reade, USAID director in Jordan. This is the first agreement of its kind with the BPWC and is intended to assist the BPWC in expanding its services to a larger number of Jordanian women.

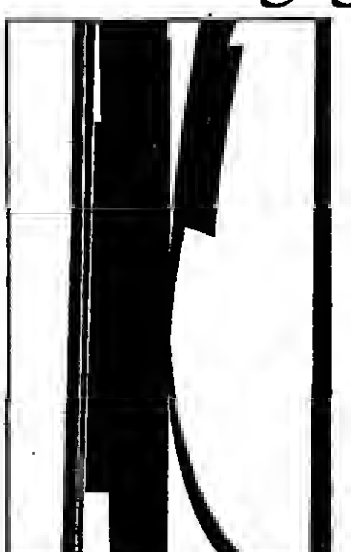
Abstract paintings by Syrian artist form unusual and engaging exhibit

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A new season under the directorship of M. Guy Senzier begins at the French Cultural Centre this week with an exhibition by Syrian artist Mustafa Chaaban.

Entitled "Le Regard Singulier," the 26 abstract, purist paintings represent an unusual departure for this normally figurative painter. The paintings are composed of carefully-rendered geometrical shapes in only three colours — red, white and black — that interact to produce either complex or simple, almost minimalist designs of a two-dimensional character. Taken as a whole, they form a striking and arresting combination. Individually, some works are more engaging than others, particularly those where off-set squares jostle with the frame of the painting, where dynamic lines taper off together in streamlined union, or where the black gives the illusion of shadows and depth.

This collection for Chaaban has been an experiment; and, with the exhibition, this phase in his artistic development now seems complete. First conceived on tiny scraps of paper, they were a



An abstract painting by Syrian artist Mustafa Chaaban.

divergence from his usual figurative form of expression, as well as from the graphic work — chiefly the design of new shapes for Arabic letters for use on transfer sheets — in which he is involved.

Chaaban maintains that the paintings have no meaning and for him, and that they "simply what they are — geometric signs, patterns of colours, id

shapes. This freedom from any emotional content, combined with the purity of the subject matter and the precise execution of these works, seems to have been a means for the artist to cleanse his mind, leaving him open to new influences and inspirations which will help him formulate a fresh way to approach the figure, to which he says he is returning.

Abstract art does not require any meaning, although some abstract artists do emphasise it. Perhaps, Malevitch's "White on White" marked the farthest limit of painting's escape from its depictive role. But when art does not possess meaning, it runs the risk of being dry and unsatisfying.

"This is, in fact, the case with some of Chaaban's work. Also, because his work depends to some extent on the slickness of its finish for its effect, when the finish is not perfect, as in the red-painted areas and around the edges where the painting meets the frame, this lack of perfection is felt and functions detrimentally.

The exhibition, which was opened by Mrs. Leila Sharaf, runs until Sept. 24.

IATA conference ends

AQABA (Petra) — A three-day conference on cooperation in civil aviation affairs ended in Aqaba Wednesday. The last session was dedicated to discussing manpower training and the establishment of regional training centres that can provide civil aviation services with skilled workers, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The three-day conference had earlier discussed the utilisation of computers in marketing, recent amendments in civil aviation regulations, changes in airline sales, new production and pricing strategies, and developments in staff employment needs.

The participants in the conference, which was opened Monday under royal patronage, voiced their appreciation to His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, for patronising the conference, which was organised by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) with the assistance and cooperation of Royal Jordanian, the national air carrier.

At the end of the closing session, Mr. Bassam Qaqish, president of the Aqaba Region Authority (ARA), presented the ARA shield to Dr. Gunter Eser, director-general of IATA. Representatives of various international airlines and aircraft companies attended the conference.

Urban development budget set

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs, and the Environment Wednesday endorsed a JD 10.311 million budget for urban development in the next year.

The decision was made at a meeting presided over by Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs, and the Environment Youssef Hamdan Al Jaber. A statement which followed said that the treasury will contribute JD 2.942 million to this budget, to be used for building schools.

The statement also said that the department will be implementing its second urban development scheme in the coming year.



Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Haj Hassan presents a diploma to a VTC training centre graduate after addressing the attendees of the Wednesday ceremony. VTC Director-General Munther Al Masri (left) also spoke at the event (Petra photo).

Haj Hassan stresses VTC role at graduation

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Haj Hassan said that Jordan has always realised the importance of human resources and education, and has sought to develop these resources, based on the concept that man is the means and end of development.

Speaking during the graduation ceremony of 1,100 male and female students from the vocational training centres in Yajouz, Ein Al Basha, Marka, and Central Jordan Valley held Wednesday at the Palace of Culture at Al Hussein Sports City, the minister added that the economic development which Jordan witnessed in the 70s has resulted in an increased need for workers trained in various specialisations. This need, he said, warranted the establishment of the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) to undertake the training of workers and to raise the efficiency of labourers through various vocational training programmes.

Mr. Haj Hassan pointed out that the current five-year development plan for the Kingdom entails the training of 30,000 labourers.

He also expressed his pleasure that the Jordanian women have, for the first time, joined vocational training programmes, and said that this qualitative stride for Jordanian women will lead to further success and achievement for Jordanian women.

The minister reviewed the characteristics of the labour market in Jordan, and said that Jordan is a recipient and exporter of labour — a situation which requires maintaining balance and integration in the labour structure in order to avoid unemployment.

VTC Director-General Munther Al Masri earlier reviewed the corporation's activities, and said that VTC work during the past 10 years has centred on vocational training and labour organisation.

Aqaba region health centres to be expanded

AQABA (Petra) — The health authorities in Aqaba are currently involved in the implementation of a plan for expanding medical and health services in the port city and its neighbouring areas, according to Samir Al Awamleh, director of the Health Department in Aqaba.

Dr. Awamleh said that the plan entails transforming the existing medical centres into comprehensive health centres providing semi-hospital services for

emergency cases.

He said that the Aqaba Health Centre will be given priority in the plan, which is being carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Health in Amman. The Aqaba project, which is expected to cost JD 100,000, will be operational by the beginning of the coming year, Dr. Awamleh added.

He said that another JD 60,000 will be spent on developing the Qweira health centre.

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Above the clamour

IN MANY ways it is gratifying and comforting to note that the foreign ministers of the European Community (EC) have criticised Israel for resuming its policy of establishing settlements in the occupied Arab territories. In their most recent meeting in Brussels, they had this to say about the consistent Israeli policy of creating facts in Arab lands: "They (the foreign ministers of the European Community) consider that every new and every existing settlement is in violation of international law and call upon the Israeli government to put an end to the illegal policy of settlement in the occupied territories." This first-ever collective pronouncement by the EC's foreign ministers is certainly welcome and encouraging news. Yet one would have anticipated that the voice of Europe on this issue would be louder and clearer. After all, with the superpowers engaging themselves in dire competition to gain influence in the Middle East, vying for control of events in order to secure for themselves strategic footholds in the region, it is only natural and logical to expect Europe to play a more decisive role in the Middle East politics, with a view towards securing stability and durable peace among the belligerent countries.

Moreover, we in the Middle East expect EC stands to be strong and aggressive, as Israel is known to be obstinate and certainly unamenable to friendly persuasion. Otherwise, the honourable and sound positions of the EC might be suspect of being nothing more than rhetoric. The geographic proximity of Europe to the Middle East puts it in a unique position to influence and affect events in our region.

There is a tremendous concentration of power within the EC, both political and economic, which must be tapped and utilised for the cause of peace and stability. A few weeks ago, the EC took a daring stand against Israel's refusal to allow direct export of agricultural produce from the West Bank and Gaza Strip to Western Europe. Though Israel did not budge on this issue either, the weight of Europe is being felt more and more by Israeli policy makers. What we recommend is that Western Europe use, fully, its clout, both economic and political, to influence the decision-making process in Israel with regard to the issues of war and peace in the Middle East. There are formidable commercial and financial links between the EC and Israel, and, thus far, Israel has been accorded various privileges and favoured treatment by the EC. If the EC decides to use its collective power for the positive cause of peace and stability in our region, we believe that it may succeed where the U.S. and the Soviet Union have failed.

We cannot agree more with the EC's assessment that Jewish settlements on Arab lands jeopardise the prospects for peace between Israel and its neighbours, and that progress towards a just and lasting peace depends on the creation of a climate of confidence between the parties to the conflict. In this view, one would have thought that the EC would have condemned, in the strongest terms last week's Israeli bombing of 'Ain Al Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp, killing scores of innocent Palestinians. Peace between peoples starts in the hearts and minds of the peoples affected. Killing and injuring Palestinian children, and innocent men and women, is anything but conducive to confidence-building between the Arabs and Israel. There is no doubt that the EC appreciates this point; therefore, we expect from the EC a bold and courageous position on every occasion that warrants its intervention. This year's session of the U.N. General Assembly is a propitious occasion for the EC to let its voice be heard louder and clearer above the clamour.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Face to face with threats

PRINCE Hassan in a speech to the Arab Strategic conference placed the Arab Nation face to face with the deteriorating situation they are witnessing and the wounds which are still bleeding in the Arab World. The speech painted a gloomy picture of the situation which Prince Hassan described as dangerous; and presented the remedy which the Arabs ought to consider to end their chronic problems. Prince Hassan pointed to individual Arab states efforts for building up their own strength, and said these endeavours form parallel lines which do not cross and do not allow the efforts of one state to complement the other. As a result big gaps and holes have been left uncovered, thus opening the way for foreign powers to penetrate Arab ranks. To end the impasse Prince Hassan urged the Arab Nation to embark on strengthening their collective security which could be accomplished through political, cultural and economic cooperation. Close cooperation among Arab states will allow the nation to protect its achievements and safeguard its interests, and also foil all the hostile conspiracies being hatched by the enemies of the Arab Nation. The Prince pointed out that the Israelis and the Iranians share one goal and that is the domination of the Arab World. Iran tries to achieve its objectives the name of Islam while Israel strives to perpetuate its occupation of Arab territory as part of providing service to Western interests. Prince Hassan urged Arab states to rise to the level of responsibility and pool their resources in the face of the common danger.

Al Dustour: Arab failures

PRINCE Hassan addressed the opening session of the Arab strategic conference in Amman Tuesday by expressing his regret that despite the setbacks and the defeats inflicted on the Arabs, they have so far failed to understand the need for collective security and economic integration. Prince Hassan said that despite the achievements of individual Arab states they still fall far short of the minimum level of pan-Arab development required for a unified Arab Nation. For this reason, the Prince said, the Arab states have failed so far to end the Arab Israeli conflict, the Gulf war, the civil strife in Lebanon, the secessionist movement in south Sudan, the Libyan-Chadian war and the conflict in the Sahara desert. These conflicts continue to bleed Arab resources and deprive the Arabs of their wealth and security. Ignoring the real meaning of common destiny and collective security is bound to keep the Arabs vulnerable, weak and impotent. The defeat of 1967 was more than enough to bring the Arabs back to their senses, and the Iranian aggression, in Iraq has not succeeded in uniting the Arab states to launch a joint action in the face of the common dangers. Prince Hassan said that Israel and Iran agree on one point: The dismemberment of the Arab Nation before imposing hegemony on its people. Prince Hassan's address to the conference was an open letter and a candid address to all Arab leaders and masses, urging them to stop this deteriorating situation in the Arab World and embark on a meaningful action for reform and for a healthy recovery.

Mitterrand returns to the spotlight

President Mitterrand's favourable popularity rating makes it almost certain that he will stand again in next spring's presidential elections in France, while among his right-wing opponents no single figure has emerged as a sure candidate. Ian Davidson looks at the contenders.

PARIS — Mr. Roland Dumas has made a "personal" prediction that President Francois Mitterrand will stand again in next spring's presidential elections. Mr. Dumas should know: Not merely was he French foreign minister until the defeat of the socialist government in last year's general elections, he is also reputed to be one of Mr. Mitterrand's closest associates.

In itself, it is not a particularly startling prediction, especially since Mr. Dumas hedges it around with cautious reservations. Mr. Mitterrand's candidature, he points out, somewhat superfluously, "will only be certain the day he has decided on it." And yet it is almost certainly a finely calculated intervention in the new political season, designed to bring the spotlight back to the president.

Since the return from the summer holidays, lesser politicians of every stripe, both left and right, have been cantering up and down outside the lists, suggesting either that they will enter next year's presidential joust, or that they

may do so in certain circumstances, or indeed that they will soon generously withdraw in favour of some other friendly and better-placed candidate. And yet the only candidacy which is really important, and which may well determine the outcome of the elections, is that of Francois Mitterrand.

For the moment, the various contenders are limiting themselves in the politics of gesture. But that is perhaps the inevitable consequence of the twin features of France's current political arrangements: a presidential constitution, in which (as last year's general elections demonstrated) the president does not necessarily hold all the reins of political power, and a two-stage voting system which provides the maximum incentive for filtration and exhibitionism beforehand.

On the left, Jean-Pierre Chevènement, the education minister of the socialist government, has just declared his pretensions to the presidency — but only if Mr. Mitterrand himself does not stand. Since Mr. Mitterrand's candidacy has long seemed

probable, political commentators have tended to interpret this particular piroquette more as an early bid to run in 1995 than as an attempt to upstage Mr. Mitterrand this time.

Michael Rocard, the former agriculture minister and a right-winger in the Socialist Party, appears to have a more ambiguous position; he has long shown the strongest indications of his presidential ambitions, but he is not yet committed to run. When asked to define his attitude if Mr. Mitterrand should run again, he has said no more than that it would be "respectful" — which is merely a way of not answering the question.

On the right the number of plausible candidacies seems to be diminishing slightly. Shortly before the summer holidays, Francois Leotard, the bustling leader of the centrist Republican Party, had a brief run-in with Jacques Chirac, the prime minister and leader of the Gaullist RPR Party, and hinted that he might enter the presidential lists. Since then he has evidently had second thoughts: somewhat melodramatically, he has fixed a later date for announcing the withdrawal of his non-candidacy, but he has rather spoiled the effect by mak-

ing it clear already that he will support Raymond Barre, formerly prime minister under President Giscard d'Estaing, as the candidate of the UDF centrist grouping.

Since the return from the summer holidays, right-wing politicians have been trying to argue that they are now less divided than the left. The claim is debatable but in any case is likely to become less true the closer we get to the presidential elections next spring, because the most plausible hypothesis suggests that there will be four heavyweight candidates, and three of them will be on the right: Mr. Barre for the UDF (though currently claiming to float above the vulgar fray); Mr. Chirac for the Gaullists (and never a man to claim to float above any fray); and Jean-Marie Le Pen, the leader of the ultra-right Front National, and instigator of many a fracas. Hence the importance of Mr. Mitterrand's decision; for if he stands, it seems likely that other socialist contenders, including Mr. Rocard, will stand down.

During the first half of this year it seemed likely that Mr. Mitterrand would stand not merely because he seemed likely to win, but because he seemed the only

left-wing candidate with a strong chance of winning. Mr. Barre has long seemed somewhat stronger than Mr. Chirac as candidate of the right, but a July poll suggested not merely that Mr. Mitterrand would run well ahead of Rocard, but would also convincingly defeat either Barre or Chirac.

During the summer holidays, poll support for President Mitterrand seemed to have faded slightly, but the latest poll suggests that his popularity has recovered with a favourable rating of 52 per cent. Mr. Chirac's positive rating, by contrast, has slumped to 35 per cent (his worst score since he became prime minister in April last year), while Barre's score has slipped from 53 to 49 per cent. Centre-right politicians are cur-

rently emphasising the virtues of unity, even though a battle royal between Chirac and Barre is an absolutely certain feature of the forthcoming campaign. By the same token, most of them tend to treat the presidential election as a self-contained event, because they do not care for the dilemma which they may face if President Mitterrand stands again and wins.

A common assumption is that he would then immediately dissolve the National Assembly in the hope of recovering a favourable parliamentary majority. But an alternative hypothesis is that, at least for an interim period, he might seek to create a centre-left majority in parliament, by wooing some of the elements of the UDF centrist group — Financial Times feature.

LETTERS

Upstairs, downstairs

To the Editor:

IT WAS with shock and disbelief that I read in the Jordan Times (Sept. 12, 1987) two announcements from the Consulate of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to its citizens in Jordan.

The first informs Sri Lankans in Jordan that "some prominent Sri Lankan official figures are expected to visit Jordan. Therefore all Sri Lankans working in Jordan, except those 'working as maids', are kindly requested to call at the consulate to register their names and addresses."

The second announcement reaffirms a previous one and confirms "that it (the consulate) does not deal with issues pertaining to Sri Lankan maids, but performs duties in serving Sri Lankans living in Jordan." In case a dispute arises, it will be solved through the proper channels."

Based on these two announcements I have the following points to make:

— On what grounds does the Sri Lankan consul make the distinction between Sri Lankans and Sri Lankan maids? Aren't they all passport-holders and equal citizens of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, regardless of what job they are doing? Or is the consul only ashamed of his more humble country-folk?

— I understand that the main duty of a consul is to care for his nationals. As far as I am aware this duty allows no distinction. If any preference is to be made surely it should be on the side of those whose needs are most dire. In the case under question this would certainly be the maids. These poor nines, poor in so many ways, do not know how to care for their own interests. It is heinous that the very establishment which should be defending their rights and helping them in every possible way has decided to shut the door on them. They normally speak no Arabic and very often no English; and most times because of this they do not fully understand what their problem is all about. Lacking any way of defending themselves when wrongly accused, they frequently "decide on flight" — either by leaving (or "escaping") as it is so erroneously called; the house of their employer or sometimes, when totally desperate, they attempt suicide. And these are the people whom the consul has firmly ruled as outside his area of care and concern. Incredible!

— Many countries throughout the world are cutting off diplomatic relations with South Africa because of its inhuman regime of apartheid. The unacceptable distinction between blacks and whites. Is the consul not doing the same thing even though here the distinction is not one of colour but of social status? The second announcement insists that "dispute should be solved through the right channels." Surely the consulate is the right channel for Sri Lankans in Jordan.

— We Jordanians, very grateful to our Sri Lankan helpers, refuse to endorse this type of distinction. We uphold human rights. I, for my part, ask my fellow Jordanians to join with me against this unbelievable violation.

— If one exists, I appeal to the Jordanian human rights commission to defend the human rights of these neglected people.

— Further, I would ask our Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior and Labour to intervene in this case. I would also ask all people of goodwill, Jordanian and otherwise, to raise their voices against this ruling by writing to the Human Rights Commission in Geneva and alert them to what is going on.

— Regarding the consul's obvious embarrassment over the implications of the visit of some of his country's higher officials, I would be pleased to offer him my support on such an occasion. I in fact make an earnest request that he invites me to be present when the said officials are here. I will surely come and I will proudly bring with me some Sri Lankan maids.

Rev. Moussa Adeli,
Director,
Jordan Caritas,
P.O. Box: 2258,
Amman.

King and Queen begin Swiss visit

(Continued from page 1)

King Hussein has visited Switzerland several times. He was in Lausanne in 1952 when he heard he had been proclaimed king at the age of 16.

Mr. Borner said the trip was official rather than a state visit as West German President Richard von Weizsaecker had already made the only state visit permitted each year by Swiss law.

But he said protocol had been upgraded and the King's visit would receive almost the same treatment as for a state visit.

Bilateral relations and cooperation are also expected to figure in the King's talks with Swiss leaders.

Swiss trade with Jordan is one-

sided. Swiss exports were worth about \$34 million last year and about \$13 million in the first six months of this year, embassy figures show. Jordanian exports to Switzerland are negligible.

Switzerland signed a credit agreement with Jordan last year to finance development projects. The Swiss government agreed to provide one third of the funds as a soft loan, with the rest coming from Swiss commercial banks at market rates.

No project has yet been funded under the scheme, partly because the strong Swiss franc has made Swiss companies less competitive than rival bidders, analysts say.

Mr. Borner cited pharmacology and computerisation as areas where Switzerland might furnish technical or scientific help.

Resistance men kill 3 Israelis

(Continued from page 1)

front line and ambulances carried away 15 SLA casualties.

Lebanese sources quoted by AP said 14 fighters from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and the Lebanese Communist Party were involved in the clash with the Israelis near the hamlet of Shweya, 10 kilometres from the border.

The squad was on its way to Israel to stage an attack within Israel, according to reports.

The DFLP, which is headed by Nayef Hawatme, is the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) second largest guerrilla group.

Sources quoted by Reuters said Israeli tanks, warplanes, infantry and helicopter gunships scoured the Bekaa Valley no-man's-land between Syrian and Israeli lines near the scene of Tuesday's attack for nearly a day.

"An Israeli command unit landed in a helicopter 100 metres from where the fighters were hiding but did not spot them," a source close to the fighters said.

A wounded fighter told repor-

ters that all 15 members of the squad escaped. He said he was the only one who was hurt.

"They (the Israelis) spotted us only 15 metres away from the border of the zone. We fought with them for a long time," he said.

Israeli sources said in Tel Aviv search parties found leaflets, weapons and explosives near the scene of the clash inside Ain Ata village, indicating that the fighters intended to take hostages.

The clash began when fighters opened fire on the Israeli patrol from a distance of 40 metres near Kfar Cheba, two kilometres north of the Israeli border, Israeli army radio said.

The village is located inside Israel's self-designated "security zone," a 10-to-15 kilometre-wide zone patrolled by hundreds of Israeli soldiers and about 1,500 SLA militiamen.

Israeli army radio said Israeli troops captured one Lebanese fighter and found pamphlets indicating the group belonged to the Lebanese National Resistance Front (LNRF).

PLO denounces U.S. order

(Continued from page 1)

negotiations," he said.

Redman said the legal determination that the information office was a foreign mission, which would allow its officials diplomatic status, was based on the fact it was owned and effectively controlled by the PLO.

Because the PLO had been accorded observer status and diplomatic privileges at the United Nations, the Washington office was ruled a foreign mission, a status the office had not requested. It is registered as an agent of the PLO.

The State Department's decision was disclosed earlier Tuesday by U.S. Representative Jack Kemp, who issued a statement praising the department. Senator Charles Grassley also predicted the closing.

Mr. Kemp, who is running for the Republican U.S. presidential nomination, issued a two-page statement hailing the shutdown as "a strong signal to the rest of the world that America's war on terrorism is being waged strongly."

"The State Department's decision is a positive step," Mr. Kemp said. "Now we must continue our war on terrorism until the PLO's New York office is put out of business."

Mr. Grassley said the decision was worked out in negotiations between the department and representatives of the American-Israel Political Action Committee, a pro-Israeli lobbying organisation.

A spokesman for the PLO office in Washington confirmed that the office received a letter from the State Department de-

claring: "It is reasonably necessary to protect the interests of the United States to require that the Palestine information office cease operation as a mission representing the PLO."

Hanan Rahman, an official at the Palestine Information Centre, said it "would be absolutely illegal and unconstitutional" for the State Department to close the PLO offices. He said he would consult lawyers about the legality of the action.

Israel welcomed the U.S. decision saying it had long called for a ban on groups linked to the PLO. But Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip opposed the move, which they said resulted from pressure by Jewish lobbyists in the United States.

An Israeli government official, who asked not to be identified, told journalists: "We welcome the U.S. decision."

In Arab Jerusalem, Radwan Abu Ayash, president of the Association of Arab Journalists in the Israeli occupied territories, called on Washington to reconsider the move.

Mr. Abu Ayash told Reuters: "The move violates U.S. law and international law."

"The office handles public relations only and its closing clearly shows how its effectiveness disturbed the Jewish lobby. We demand the U.S. re-evaluate the move," he said.

Another local leader, Pharmacists' Association President Ismail Taziz, said the move was "proof of U.S. defiance of Palestinian rights and ambitions and illustrated Zionist influence on the U.S. administration."

U.N. chief reports on mission

(Continued from page 1)

of Ghana, current president of the council, told some reporters on Tuesday there was no alternative to a continuing dialogue with the Iranians.

Commenting on Iran's demand that the council brand Iraq as "the aggressor" and mete out "punishment," Mr. Gheho suggested the 15-nation body accept that Iraq was the aggressor, but not say so in such a way that Iraq would be "dragged into court and forced to pay reparations."

Mr. Gheho was one of the council members whose reluctance to support the July ceasefire resolution prolonged the negotiations about its text.

A U.S. diplomat said Tuesday Secretary of State George Shultz was to discuss an arms embargo against Iran with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy said the Soviets were not expected to stand in the way of such a measure.

Mr. Murphy said he was optimistic the Security Council would

adopt such an embargo if Mr. Perez de Cuellar returns from his Gulf tour without clear Iranian acceptance of a ceasefire.

In London, the Kuwaiti foreign minister called on the Security Council on Wednesday to impose an arms embargo against Iran following the U.N. secretary general's apparent failure to secure a ceasefire in the war.

Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, on a tour of Moscow, London and Paris to seek sanctions against Iran, stopped short of calling for an oil boycott of Tehran. He said revenues from oil enabled Iran to continue the Gulf war.

"The time is ripe in the wake of Iran's refusal to accept the U.N. resolution to impose sanctions against Iran," he told a news conference in London. "As far as buying Iranian oil is concerned, there will be consultations," he added.

The foreign minister won assurances from Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe on Tuesday that Britain would endorse sanctions if Mr. Perez de Cuellar's mission failed.

Iraqis resume air attacks

(Continued from page 1)

southwest of Ahvaz at 2.40 p.m. (1040 GMT). It said the fields were left in flames.

The second raid followed 20 minutes later when "Iraqi jets penetrated enemy air defences" in hit the eastern loading jetty at Kharg.

The Iraqi attacks followed charges by a Baghdad military spokesman that Iranian artillery had been shelling the southern port city of Basra.

Speaking before the resumed Iraqi attacks were announced, he said the Iraqi air force would level entire Iranian cities if the shelling did not cease.

"Iraq will eliminate Iranian cities if Iranian rulers continue such arrogant acts," the spokesman said, adding that the Iraqi air force had plenty of planes to do the job.

"The Iraqi air force is able to send 100 aircraft to attack each Iranian city to retaliate for Iran's bombardment of Iraqi residential areas," he said.

Ibrahim in Iran

Meanwhile, Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmad Taleb Ibrahim met with Iranian leaders in Tehran on Tuesday in an apparent effort to promote a ceasefire in the war.

IRNA said Mr. Ibrahim arrived in Tehran Monday night and met with Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati on Tuesday.

The agency made no mention of Algerian mediation efforts. But official sources in Algiers said Sunday that the visit was aimed at promoting a settlement of the conflict.

Algeria has maintained good relations with Iran.

IRNA said Mr. Ibrahim's mission was to improve economic links between Algeria and Iran. Official sources in Algiers reported at the weekend that Algerian President Chadli Benjedid called Mr. Ibrahim in Sunday to discuss the visit to Iran.

A commentary on the official Algerian news agency recalled an earlier effort by Mr. Benjedid to mediate in the conflict in 1982.

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First catch your sunbeam, then frame it

As yet solar energy is too expensive and inefficient to fuel power stations but two recent discoveries are helping it to catch up on its traditional competitors, nuclear power and fossil fuel, says Paul Simons of The Guardian.

YOU'VE heard it all before — solar power is clean, useful and lasts indefinitely. So why do we still have nuclear and fossil-burning power stations? Answer: solar power is not as cheap or efficient enough. The cost of making solar-powered electric cells is too high and the sunlight too diffuse to use effectively. Yes, there are special uses like space vehicles and low powered calculators and watches. But power stations are a completely different kettle of fish.

Yet slowly and surely solar cells are closing in on their old competitors. The technology is approaching the stage at which million-watt power stations could be built, perhaps by the end of the century. Two different breakthroughs are casting solar energy in a new light. New materials based on glasses or alloys are raising the efficiency of solar cells. And although reflecting sunlight with mirrors on to solar cells is too expensive, there could be a completely new way of funneling light efficiently on to solar cells, using a technique more familiar to illuminated fountains and fluorescent watches.

The new solar technology is veering away from the traditional silicon crystal cells. These were made of large crystals of silicon sliced into slithers, which tended to waste sunlight by reflecting it. But silicon made into a glass made of a jumbled mass of atoms instead of a regular crystal — absorbs much more light. So the cells can be made thinner and cheaper. Several companies in the U.S. and Japan are already making commercial modules of amorphous silicon up to four square feet.

Alternatively, new semiconductor alloys with exotic names such as copper indium diselenide, cadmium telluride and gallium arsenide or alloys of silicon glass combined with carbon or germanium or nitrogen offer a whole range of new cells. Thin wafers of these could be stacked one on top of another to make more use of the light spectrum. For instance, the top one could collect blue light, the cell below collects red light, and so on. The resulting module could then be arranged in sheets.

As for collecting the sunlight, the breakthrough here is in coupling two different phenomena — total internal reflection of light, and fluorescence.

Just over 100 years ago, the English physicist John Tyndall shone a beam of light through a jet of water poured out sideways from a flask. As the water bent

downwards, so the light inside curved with it — the first scientific demonstration of total internal reflection. The edges of the water jet trapped the light beams inside, by bouncing them back inside each time they tried to escape. The trick is to shine the light from the inside of the water.

Now instead of water, take a sheet of solid transparent glass or plastic. They also trap light by total internal reflection, provided the light shines in at a crucial angle. And there's the problem — getting the angle of light just right. But dope the material with a fluorescent chemical, and you have a light source already sitting inside the glass/plastic. When the sun shines, the dye glows, and much of its fluorescence is trapped by total internal reflection.

The same phenomenon also pipes and concentrates the light to the edges of the sheet where a strip of solar cell below collects the intense light. And there you have a luminescent solar concentrator.

Catch is that the fluorescent dye absorbs some light without reflecting it, and it also deteriorates in sunlight. But the German chemical industry has come to the rescue with a range of surprisingly stable new dyes, the polycyclic fluorescent dyes. Some of these have been tested continually outdoors for several years with very little deterioration. The irony is that these new dyes can be

boosted with fluorescence from Uranium 238 — providing more power than its more short-lived brother uranium 235 used in nuclear reactors. The main limit now is the size of the solar luminescent concentrator — one square metre — to which the solar cell will have to be tailored.

High costs have delayed the advent of large scale solar cell power generating plants. In 1974 the price of generating power from solar cells in the U.S. would have been over \$3 per kilowatt-hour whereas fossil fuels and nuclear generators cost between five to ten cents per kilowatt-hour. Already solar costs are down to 30 cents per kilowatt-hour. At the same rate of progress, solar costs are expected to reach 5 cents per kilowatt-hour by 1995.

Solar cell power stations have already been built, ranging up to 1 megawatt in size. Stations are being built in the U.S., Saudi Arabia and West Germany. Japan is operating more than 10 plants between 3 to 200 kilowatts, and a one-megawatt plant built by the New Energy Development Organisation began operating in 1985. And when the solar cells eventually feed the power grids, the full benefits of solar power will at last be realised — clean, inexhaustible, virtually free of maintenance, mass-produced in factories and quick to assemble into power plants. And then the age of fossil fuels will be eclipsed.

The real Pasolini: More gadfly than creator

By Thomas Quinn Curtiss

PIER PAOLO PASOLINI, who was a symbol of postwar changes in politics and in sexual mores before his violent death in 1975, has become a period figure whose films are now taught in universities rather than banned.

A sympathetic portrait of Pasolini by Enzo Siciliano, a Milanese journalist and author — now published in English by the Bloomsbury Press of London — provides a running commentary of the zigzag history of postwar Italy against which the director-poet rose to fame.

Born in Bologna in 1922, the son of an army officer and a doting mother, Pasolini was a precocious child, in his school-days already writing lyric blank verse and contemplating political reforms for the betterment of his countrymen. He was not the common bookworm weakling, keeping in physical trim by participating in soccer games, swimming competitions and bicycling excursions.

He thought of himself as a philosopher and naïvely tried to resolve Christian and Marxist ideology. Toward the end of World War II, Pasolini joined the Communist Party. His proud spirit revolted at submitting to orders and his inborn Catholicism held him in its grip, though it failed to still his pagan yearnings. He was expelled from the party for his overt homosexuality.

He had a deep compassion for the underdog and roamed Rome's shanty towns to record what he saw in two novels relating the lot of the excluded. He drew the grim background with some stylistic flashes, but he was an outsider looking in.

Federico Fellini engaged him as an assistant and scenarist and soon Pasolini was making his first film, "Accattone," set in a shanty community on the Rome outskirts and acted by inhabitants of that wasteland. He followed it with a similar study of the dispossessed, "Mamma Roma," with Anna Magnani. Both films met with censorship that brought him to national attention. This pleased him for he enjoyed vexing the authorities.

"I love life fiercely, desperately," he announced. "And I believe this will carry me to the end."

How will it end? I don't know. I am scandalous. I am so to the extent that I stretch a cord between the sacred and the profane.

He courted the sacred by producing a film on the life of Christ, "The Gospel According to Saint Matthew." It was designed to refute the hoministic Biblical spectacles from Hollywood. He and many of his admirers believed that his method was unique, although long before D.W. Griffith had woven the Christ story into his epic, "Intolerance," to contrast it with the gaudy grandeur of the Babylonian court.

The premiere of his screen adaptation of "Oedipus Rex" had a mixed reception at the Venice festival in 1967. The nays were in the majority. They denounced the film as a travesty of a classic and criticised his protégé Franco Citti, who played the tragic king, for his delivery and his lack of regal presence.

I met Pasolini after he held a stormy press conference in Rome in 1967. Then in his early 40s, he was not at all the expected wild hippie. This reckless iconoclast in person was a courteous, smiling man of mild, modest manner. He talked of Greek tragedy and his version of "The Oresteia" for Vittorio Gassman; of acting and direction; of the authors who had influenced him and of the ideas that guided him.

Pasolini went on to outline a film he was preparing. It was loosely based on Tolstoy's "The Death of Ivan Ilyich," the story of a man in middle age, suddenly stricken with illness and beset by his conscience to review his life as death approaches. He had taken the theme for a modern drama and he related a few of its sequences so vividly that they seemed to live as he spoke.

Also, the realisation of his scenario did not match his brilliant description of it. The resulting film, "Teorema" ("Theorem") was a far cry from its original concept, and had coarsened into something resembling a sex-ed-up edition of the pre-World War I "The Servant in the House." The mysterious stranger who intrudes to bring salvation to a troubled household inspires each member of the house by bedding them in turn. Nor could the movie-parlor

magic properly depict the elevation of the born-again domestic who suggested Mary Poppins on one of her flights and evoked laughter.

Again Pasolini had created a scandal, this time with the clergy in dispute as to whether "Teorema" was sacred or profane. "Pasolinian," Siciliano records, was now an adjective used by the press to indicate everything in Rome concerning the sub-proletariat, low life and homosexuality.

As permissiveness spread in the late 1960s, censorship retreated and Pasolini had a freer hand. He made the most of it. Probably his producers were responsible for his efforts to bring Boccaccio, Chaucer, "The Arabian Nights" and the Marquis de Sade to the screen.

His "Decameron" had spirit and flavour, there was pictorial beauty to his "Arabian Nights."

though in exotic magic it was inferior to the exotic fantasy of Douglas Fairbanks' "The Thief of Baghdad," but "The Canterbury Tales" descended to burlesque humour and even inserted a Charlie Chaplin figure into its medieval midst. In his final film, "Salò, or the 120 Days of Sodom," he appeared intent on dramatising sado-masochistic obsessions.

On Nov. 2, 1975, his battered body was found on a deserted field outside Rome. He had been murdered by a homosexual prostitute but, from the evidence that Siciliano presents, the possibility exists that the youth had not acted alone, that the crime was politically motivated. Mystery continues to hover over the case.

In retrospect Pasolini seems to have been more gadfly than creator.

— International Herald Tribune.

Looking below the surface

The Arab World: a personal view
By Gerald Butt
BBC Books, London 1987.
£7.95

Gerald Butt is well qualified to explain the complexities of the contemporary Middle East. His book is published as the Middle East correspondent for the BBC. Years which saw the assassination of President Sadat, the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the American bombing of Tripoli, the coup

wildered and uncomprehending. But remarkably, in a book of only 150 pages, he has managed to describe and explain the surface of events in a way that gives coherence to a pattern of apparent confusion, and at the same time to look below the surface to identify the causes of the trends which have found such unruly expression in almost every part of the huge region which we call the Middle East.

In doing so, the author was helped by the fact that he was brought up in the area and came to his task as a correspondent with some knowledge of its history and peoples. Avoiding the stereotypes and the commonplaces which characterise so much reporting of the Middle East (and of the Third World in general), he combines an admirable detachment with a genuine and constructive interest in the process of social and economic development which is going on, with repeated setbacks, amid the political turmoil. His book provides a useful guide for anyone who wants to know not just what is going on in the Middle East but why it is happening and what it may lead to.

Michael Adams

Marijuana may aid glaucoma sufferers

The marijuana plant, source of an illegal drug, will soon be used in the treatment of glaucoma, an eye disease which can cause blindness. Canute James in Kingston describes how researchers have had to overcome official prejudice against the plant in order to wage their fight against the disease.

KINGSTON — Sufferers from glaucoma, an ailment of the eye which can lead to blindness, will soon have a chance to obtain treatment from a medicine derived from an unusual source. A decade of research in the Caribbean to find a treatment for glaucoma has ended with the start of commercial marketing of a drug prepared from the marijuana plant.

The treatment is now being marketed in the commonwealth Caribbean with the start of commercial production last month by AMTEC Chemicals, a Jamaican firm. Mr. Richard Wells, the company's general manager, says a major hospital in Britain, which he did not name, has asked for samples of the marijuana extract. A request for approval of the drug from the United States Food and Drug Administration will be made when the manufacturers are able to finance it.

Glaucoma, for which there is no known cure, is brought on by high intraocular pressure which damages the optic nerve. It leads to blindness if untreated, and is one of the leading causes of blindness in many parts of the developing world. The pressure is caused by a build-up of liquids in the

eyeball, and impaired vision is usually the first sign of the problem. It is traditionally treated by drugs which temporarily reduce intraocular pressure, or by eye surgery.

The research and identification of an active agent in marijuana which significantly lowers intraocular pressure was carried out by Professor Manley West of Jamaica, head of the pharmacology department of the University of the West Indies, and Dr. Albert Lockhart of St. Vincent, a former head of the ophthalmology department of the Kingston Public Hospital.

The treatment is applied as ophthalmic eye drops from bottles of five millilitres each, which are now being marketed. The active ingredient of the marijuana derivative represents 0.1 per cent of the treatment.

"There is no danger of a patient becoming addicted to marijuana by using this treatment," Mr. Wells explains. "The narcotic component of the marijuana is taken out altogether, and one advantage of this treatment is that it is not absorbed into the bloodstream."

The development of the treatment from marijuana was based

on a long-held belief in Jamaican folk medicine that marijuana, extensively and illegally cultivated and used on the island, has valuable medicinal properties not admitted by modern science.

One persistent claim has been that people who used marijuana rarely needed to wear spectacles. There was something in marijuana, it was suggested, that was good for the eyes, despite legal sanctions, backed by scientific research, which indicated that it was generally bad for health.

The research took just over a decade of largely unaided effort by both men, and their work was hardly helped by no small amount of cynicism from many quarters based on the fact that their raw material was an illegal substance.

The identification of the element in marijuana to treat glaucoma could have been completed two years earlier, as it took Messrs West and Lockhart that long to obtain the Jamaican government's permission to use marijuana in their work.

The researchers were also hampered by a lack of technical and financial support. They were eventually allowed quantities under the supervision of the police.

The raw material which we use is obtained under similar controlled conditions from the Ministry of National Security," says Mr. Wells.

Rabbits and dogs were the guinea pigs after the first extracts

from marijuana were produced in 1976. Their intraocular pressure was measured and compared before and after applications of the treatment. When they showed no ill effects from the use of the eye drops made from marijuana, tests were done on humans. The treatment proved to be successful.

The formula is a closely guarded scientific and commercial secret. "It is protected under patent," reports Mr. Wells. As word of the success of the research spread through the medical community, unsuccessful efforts were made by drug companies to purchase the formula for the treatment.

The work of the two Caribbean researchers is likely to increase interest in other possible medicinal qualities of marijuana. With the success of efforts to find a treatment for glaucoma, there are already suggestions within medical circles in the Caribbean that the marijuana plant could eventually provide the basis for an even more important development — a cure for glaucoma. There are also indications that extracts from the plant can be used to treat terminal cases of cancer.

Jamaican folk medicine, vindicated by the breakthrough in the treatment of glaucoma, also holds that tea made from the marijuana plant can cure asthma, and the flu, and diarrhoea — Financial Times feature.

Asilah: Tourism without tears

By Jean-Pierre Peroncel-Hugoz

"MOUSSEM". From this Arab word meaning "season" (the French made "mousson" (monsoon). In Morocco, a moussem is also a popular gathering of Muslims that falls at a regular time. Now the word designates a regularly held cultural event, a festival if you like.

At Asilah, the word has acquired a new and non-specialist significance. Asilah, a small town set down by the Phoenicians long ago on the Atlantic coast a little to the south of the Pillars of Hercules and which has since become — right up to this day — a sort of miniature of a sherry urban civilisation.

In 1978, a few local men from the ranks of journalists and diplomats, like Mohamed Benaissa, or painters, like Mohamed Melehi, got together to discuss what they could do to spare Asilah, a fragile community in every respect, the shock of European tourism which, having knocked down the Spanish barrier, was thrusting southwards.

These young people founded the El Moulti (Ocean) Association and undertook artistic creation as a shield. Painters exhibited their canvases, poets recited their verses and a few admen took note and even sometimes talked about it. That was Asilah's first cultural moussem.

On the whole, though, people remained sceptical, but since then the event, doggedly mounted year after year, has succeeded in attracting the attention of Italian creative people like the writer Alberto Moravia and film director Ettore Scola, of Senegalese statesman Leopold Sedar Senghor, Crown Prince Hassan, the Sudanese novelist Tayeb Saleh, the Indian musician Ravi Shankar, and Japanese, Polish and Portuguese artists. And, of course, the Moroccan intelligentsia, from the popular Arabic-speaking short-story writer Mohamed Choucri (his violent "Bare

Bread" was translated into French and published by Maspero in 1980) who comes from neighbouring Tangiers, right down to the painter Farouk Belkhaba, who designed Asilah's new market to which peasants from the surrounding areas appear to have taken well.

Ten years ago, Farouk Belkhaba, Mohamed Melehi and some other painters, young but already highly rated at home, and in some cases abroad, also proposed to the Zelaishis (residents of Asilah, the ancient Zeli) that they paint some of the blank walls of their houses. The response was enthusiastic, and some families even sulked because their neighbour's facade had been chosen in preference to theirs. For the tenth moussem, the same painters came back and replaced with new, generally abstract, frescoes, the designs that sea spray, more than the fingers, for once respectful, of children, had gradually wiped out.

One of the other events of this tenth cultural event at Asilah was the interest finally shown by the Spanish and the French who had long been dismissive of the moussem.

Extremes in attitudes towards their nearest Arab neighbours are to be found among Spanish intellectuals. In Madrid, the historical mistrust of the "Moors" still exists strongly among some of them, while others mark the capture of Granada, the last of the Moorish kingdoms in Andalusia to be retaken by the Catholic monarchs in 1492, as a day of mourning.

One of the themes of the Moussem this year, and more specifically of the El Moutamid summer university opened in 1984, was the "route of the flamenco." From where did this singing, this music, this dance of Spanish Gypsies come? Between sessions of "practical work" performed by Granadans, Anato-

lian and Sindhis, heated discussions took place among experts championing the various Indian, Pakistani, Turkish, Moroccan and even Palestinian theories as to the geographical route taken by a vocal and rhythmic art which in any case reached its full flowering in Andalusia.

Even the eminent Istanbul sociologist Metin And had agreed to come with his Bosphorus French, Ottoman politeness and Anatolian stubbornness. He was one of the treats of the Moussem. The Spaniards were dumbfounded that a Turk should be so versed in, and enthusiastic about, "their" flamenco.

France sent the wife of Minister of Culture Francois Leotard for the opening of the Moussem (the minister himself, it must be said, had previously been on a visit in Morocco). This year, in addition to the Ministry of Culture, the Quai d'Orsay and the Maison des Cultures du Monde in Paris, which will doubtless soon follow up with a sequel to the Asilah symposium.

Will it be said that France has jumped on the Moussem bandwagon because it is doing well? The few French visitors, and I am one of them, who long before the moussem appreciated Asilah's mint-and-milk streets, its traders, grandees and extremely well-behaved children, believed that biding a "cultural" event would only hasten the process of turning this little Ibero-Arab town into another Saint-Tropez.

They were mistaken and now they are coming back, quite repentant, to see this town swelling from 20,000 to 100,000 inhabitants every August and making a living without repudiating itself,

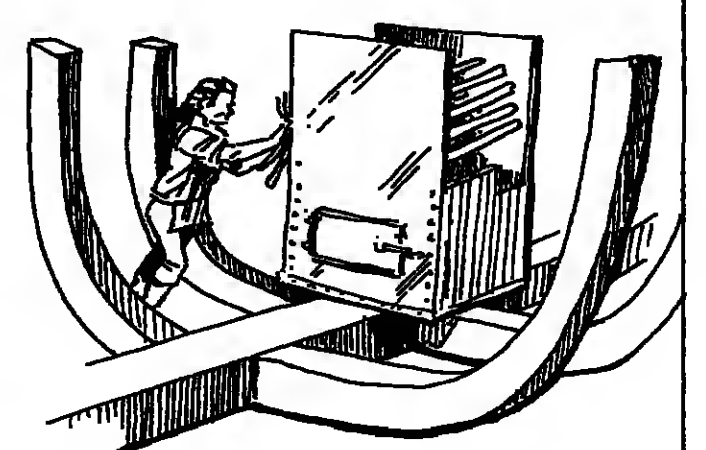
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC NEWS GRAPHIC



Beginning in the 1840s, commercial whalers hunted gray whales in their breeding lagoons along the Baja California coast and later in their northern range, reducing the eastern Pacific stock to a nearly fatal level.



The origin and purpose of huge, 2,000-year-old sandstone urns that lie on the Plain of Jars in central Laos remain uncertain.



American inventor James Rumsey, not popularly credited with inventing the steamboat, designed a water-tube boiler in the 18th century that eventually became the world standard for all steam engines, from power plants to ocean liners.



The largest known outbreak of tornadoes within a 24-hour period, 148, hit the United States April 3-4, 1974, killing 315 people.

Drawings by Stokes Walesby
© National Geographic Society

Syria snatches two golds in Mediterranean Games

LATAKIA, Syria (Agencies) — Fresh from gold medal triumphs in wrestling and gymnastics, Syria advanced towards further medals on Wednesday with a 3-0 shutout of Cyprus in men's volleyball, and Italy took more victories in diving.

The Syrian victory before a cheering, drum-beating crowd sets up a showdown on Thursday with Italy that will determine who had the advantage in the finals next week. Italy thumped Lebanon 3-0 on Wednesday.

Italy's Oscar Bertone scored a strong 549.90 to win the men's platform diving gold medal over teammate Piero Italiani — winner of the springboard competition earlier.

Syria scored three gold medals on Tuesday as the Italian monopoly on the victory stands of the 12-nation tournament cracked, with strong showings by Yugoslavia, Spain and the host country.

Spain's Laura Munoz stole the gymnastics show with three gold medals in the uneven bars, horse vault and floor exercise to go with her crown in the women's individual all-around and a team gold.

Her five gold medals topped the achievement of Italy's Gloria

giant, who won his fourth on Tuesday in the men's 400-metre freestyle, as well as a silver for his part in the 400-metre relay team.

Italy continued to dominate the medal standings, paced by its aquatic teams but helped by its gymnasts and wrestlers.

The Italians won 10 golds, seven silvers and seven bronzes on the fourth full day of competition.

But France and Spain finally struck gold at the swimming pool after three days of unbroken Italian victories.

Jacquelin Delord of France won the 100-metre butterfly and Spain's Sergio Lopez took the 200-metre breaststroke. France also won the 400-metre freestyle relay.

Arabs' first gold

Syria won the Arab countries' first gold on the wrestling mat, when Khaled Faraj won the 48-

kilogramme class in Greco-Roman wrestling, followed by Ayman Rihawi at 62 kgs.

It followed with a conquest by gymnast Alaaddin Namo in the men's floor exercise.

Yugoslavia entered the gold medal tables with Greco-Roman wrestling victories by Emil Trauber in the 100-kg class, Franc Podlesek at 74 kgs and Nando Sabo at 68 kgs.

Turkey's strong wrestling team, which had entered the tournament hoping for a few golds, had to settle for three bronze medals and one silver in the 82-kg class for Mustafa Suzan.

Italy, whose 441-member team is outnumbered only by that of Syria, the hosts, collected three golds in the men's and women's gymnastics on Tuesday.

Basketball

Turkey continued a winning streak in the men's basketball tournament in Aleppo, beating Greece 77-66 to record a third successive victory.

Syria met their second defeat in the six-nation round-robin when Tunisia beat them 80-70, while Spain, which lost to Turkey on Monday 62-63, trounced Lebanon 142-62.

France, in third place on the medal table with four golds, opened their defence of the soccer title in style by outclassing Algeria 4-0. Philippe Prieur scored a hat-trick for France, which squandered several second-half chances.

Greece, playing in the same soccer group, pipped an attractive Moroccan side 1-0 against the run of play. The lone goal was scored by Penang Tsalouchidis.

The other group opens its matches in Aleppo on Wednesday when Syria takes on Turkey and San Marino, the outsiders, play Lebanon.

The Albanian women's basketball team, competing in a four-nation round-robin tournament in Aleppo, should have no difficulty accounting for Syria on Wednesday. The team produced an impressive display of skills to defeat Turkey on Monday.

Turkey, previously the favourites, plays a spirited but technically weak Lebanese side.

In Damascus, Syria were held to a 15-15 draw in the men's handball tournament on Tuesday, while Spain beat Lebanon 43-8. In the women's competition, Italy edged past France 15-14.

'Greedy' Mirandinha goes before live TV audience

LONDON (AP) — Brazilian star Mirandinha, who has made a spectacular impact on English soccer, will have an audience of millions when he parades his skills for Newcastle United against Liverpool at the weekend.

The match, at Newcastle's St. James' Park, is the first to be televised live in England this season and will be staged on Sunday, 24 hours after the rest of the soccer programme.

Mirandinha, who scored twice at Manchester United last week and also netted the previous week in a match between the English League and the Irish League, faces a star-studded Liverpool line-up which is hoping to gain ground on the leader, Queens Park Rangers.

On Saturday, Rangers visits lowly Oxford United looking for their seventh victory in eight outings this term. The West London team has opened up a five point lead atop the standings in a league where three points count for a victory.

Second placed Tottenham Hotspur visits London neighbour West Ham United, while Manchester United, placed fourth, travels to champion Everton, which is languishing in ninth place.

The other First Division matches being staged Saturday are Arsenal-Wimbledon, Charlton Athletic-Luton Town, Chelsea-Norwich City, Coventry City-Nottingham Forest, Derby County-Sheffield Wednesday and Watford-Portsmouth.

Mirandinha — full name Francisco Ernani Lima da Silva — was signed by Newcastle a month ago as a replacement for England international Peter Beardsley who, ironically, will be on the

opposite side on Sunday.

Although starved of success in the past 30 years, Newcastle always has had crowd-pulling stars, such as Jackie Milburn in the 1950s, Malcolm McDonald in the 1970s and Kevin Keegan in the early 1980s.

Manager Willie McFaul said Mirandinha, hired for £575,000 (\$920,000), could prove more popular than his predecessors.

"If he carries on the way he has started, he'll outdo them all in popularity here. So far he has fulfilled our hopes," McFaul said. The 28-year-old Brazilian, who scored 45 goals in his last season with the Sao Paulo Club, Palmeiras, said that in Brazil he was known as a greedy player.

Queens Park Rangers' own goalscoring machine, Gary Bannister, has scored five of his side's 12 goals this season.

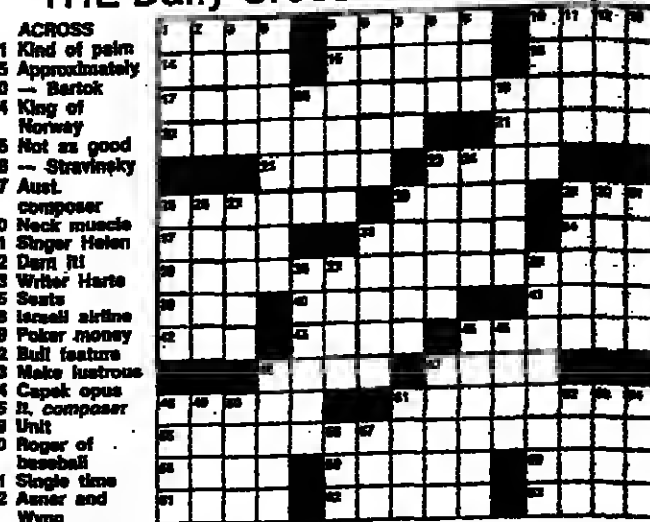
But it is Rangers' defence that has baffled the opposition, including champion Everton, by using a sweeper behind four defenders. The result is Rangers' have conceded only two goals.

Oxford, beaten 2-0 at Liverpool last week, suffered a 2-5 home defeat by Luton Town in its last home match.

Like Liverpool and Manchester United, Tottenham is a team brimming with international stars. But the north London side is still looking for its first away victory of the season after two draws and a defeat.

The Manchester side faces a test of its championship potential when it goes to Goodison Park to meet the title holder. United's new signing in the attack, Brian McClair from Glasgow Celtic, has fitted in quickly, while Everton is hampered by injury problems.

THE Daily Crossword by Martin Armstrong



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solution

1. Kind of pain	10. King of Norway	19. Not so good	28. Polka money	37. Bull feature	46. Capet opus	55. It's composer	64. Roger of Verulam	73. Single time	82. Aumer and Wynn	91. Richard old style	100. Social groups	109. Submarines	118. George — (car)	127. Verdi opera	136. Do — (all-out)	145. Bring up	154. Highway sign	163. Bear's mate	172. Cookery	181. Obelisk	190. Is ready for	200. Reward of a kind	209. Asana	218. Country monogram	227. Pro — substance	236. Euphemistic oath	245. Hobbesian	254. Chi — chi	263. Seal	272. Ultimatum phrase	281. Temporary alliance	290. Plethora	299. Sphenoid	308. Zed sign	317. Sp. hero	326. Lame	335. Small weight	344. Attenuate	353. Plotted	362. Confine	371. Boar Max	380. It's composer and family	389. Got money for (a check)	398. Fragrant wood	407. Comedian	416. Jack of old	425. At a distance	434. Soft cheese	443. Custard's room	452. Alphabet run	461. Old form of verb	470. Vase	479. Character	488. Cabbage dish	497. Cherry	506. Yard variety	515. abba
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More details, call tel: 813549.

FIRST RACE 4.00 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1. A. El Hameed Fadil	M. Hatim	Owner	Sulman	54.5
2. Thamiir Hazza Hadeed	Baroon	Owner	Kasim	54.5
3. Mohamed Mohammad	Ghazal	Owner	Mwalak	53
4. Khalaf Youssef Rwidan	El Ahmady	Owner	Fawaz	53
5. Alalsh Farhan	S. El Naeem	Owner	Amjad	51.5
6. A. El Lati Abdallah	Fadwa	Owner	Basil	51.5
7. Hisham Mohammad	K. Bassam	Owner	George	48.5
8. Salman Hisham Nabalay	M. Salman	Owner	Youssef	48.5
9. Mohammad Khalil Marley	B. Shalkhan	Owner	Samy	48.5
10. Khalaf Mohammad	S. Mikhlid	Owner	Rasheed	48.5
11. Mikhlid Daweesh Barkhest	F. Rady	Owner	Eid	48.5
12. Shihadi Aly Fokara	N. Maen	Owner	Eid	48.5
13. Dr. A. El Naeem A. Wandy	B. Shalesh	Owner	50	
14. Khalaf Abdullah	El Shalesh	Owner	50	
15. Fhaid Mitter Sawaser	Azab	Owner	Ahmad	48.5

THIRD RACE 5.00 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1. Ahmad Aly Fhaid	Shammeneh	Owner	Basil	54.5
2. Mohammad Salim Rabayah	R. El Fala	Owner	Eid	54.5
3. Oudih El Khaisy	M. Hassan	Owner	Mwalak	54.5
4. A. El Lati Salameh	El Ghaleh	Owner	Sulman	54.5
5. Salim A. El Kareem Kfarlan	Jraiban	Owner	53	
6. Mishaal Miteb El Fairaz	A. Mishaal	Owner	Fawaz	50
7. Naf El Hadeed	Marshhour	Owner	Ahmad	50
8. Dr. A. El Hadez A. Wandy	D. Maen	Owner	Kasim	50
9. Talib El Nahr	Badi	Owner	A. Jagheel	50
10. Samir Khalil Haddadin	B. Dhaway	Owner	Youssef	48.5
11. Mohammad Salman Nabalay	Sabah	Owner	Rasheed	48.5
12. Mayda Daweesh Bakheal	A. Maady	Owner	50	
13. Aly A. El Azees Marley	M. Imad	Owner	48.5	
14. Mohammad Khalil El Faez	T. Khalid	Owner	A. Amarah	54.5
15. Salameh Misha	Gharad	Owner	48.5	

SECOND RACE 4.30 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1400 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1. A. Jabir Badir	Wardth	Owner	Eid	54.5
2. Ghailb Haddadin	Ithlas	Owner	George	51.5
3. H.H. Late Sherif Nasir Stable	Kareem	Abbas	50	
4. H.H. Late Sherif Nasir Stable	Mashallah	Abbas	50	
5. H.H. Late Sherif Nasir Stable	E. El Khalil	Abbas	50	
6. Khalil Ghaddadin	E. El Mahe	Owner	Eid	50
7. Nimir El Hmoud	Sahil	Mahmoud	Mahmoud	50
8. Saif Ghazy A. Jabir	S. Salim	Owner	Tharlin	48.5

FOURTH RACE 5.30 FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1. Basit Youssef Awawith	Ghareeb	Owner	56	
2. Fawaz Anwar El Shalan	El Midalath	Mouhsin	Kasim	55.5
3. H.H. Late Sherif Nasir Stable	Azab	Abbas	Fawaz	54.5
4. Samy Haddadin	Jarh	George	53	
5. Saif El Din El Ijri	El Rayah	Owner	Ahmad	51.5
6. Nimir El Hmoud	El Ghool	Mahmoud	Mahmoud	50
7. Ghazy A. Jabir	M. Najla	Owner	Youssef	48.5
8. Saif Ghazy A. Jabir	Moharrah	Owner	Fawaz	48.5
9. Youssef Rahhal	W. El Silh	Owner	56	

FIFTH RACE 6.00 FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 2200 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1. Nimir El Hmoud	Alles	Mahmoud	Mahmoud	57
2. Nimir El Hmoud	Rum	Mahmoud	Moussa	51.5
3. Nimir El Hmoud	Aghadeer	Mahmoud	Kasim	50.5
4. Nayla Wasil Bshar	Warden	Khair El Din	Rasheed	50
5. Kamal Wasil Beharat	Naimin	Khair El Din	50	
6. Kamal Wasil Beharat	H. El Roman	Khair El Din	50	
7. Aly Fares El Saad	Sary	Khair El Din	50	

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PLAZA

Tel: 677420

B.M.X. BANDITS

Performances 7.30, 9.15, 11.30, 13.30

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following were the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.6450/60	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3165/70	Canadian dollar
	1.8115/20	West German marks
	2.0375/85	Dutch guilders
	1.5015/25	Swiss francs
	37.56/59	Belgian francs
	6.0400/50	French francs
	1307/1308	Italian lira
	143.75/85	Japanese yen
	6.3725/75	Swedish crowns
	6.6375/6425	Norwegian crowns
	6.9750/9800	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	458.30/80	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares were firmer after a lower opening, with a string of encouraging company results outweighing Wednesday's lower Wall Street market opening, dealers said.

At 1454 GMT the FTSE 100 index was up 9.8 points at 2,274.3 after an early low of 2,260.1 and a high of 2,278 at 1053 GMT.

Tuesday's Wall Street decline prompted Wednesday morning's falls, but dealers said trading continued to be subdued ahead of Friday's U.K. August money supply and bank lending information. Thursday's U.K. July average earnings data will also determine the market's short-term course as the figures might give clues to inflationary pressures in the U.K. economy, dealers said.

The market was also underpinned by news U.K. industrial production data for July showed a higher-than-expected overall rise of 2.2 per cent after June's 1.3 per cent fall. Manufacturing output rose 1.6 per cent in July after a 0.1 per cent fall in June.

Wednesday's other important U.K. economic indicator showed a public sector borrowing requirement for August of £750 million. This was less than the forecast £1.25 billion but dealers said the data has long been distorted by privatisation receipts and is no longer closely watched.

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1987

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Today presents some excellent opportunities for making solid and reasonable plans for the near future. If you don't seize these opportunities, you'll miss out on some considerable fortune.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): Use your talents to plan some valuable improvements to your property. Try not to be demanding with your family, but establish more harmony there instead.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20): Do some research which will help you to become more efficient. After racing around all day, try not to drive tonight. This evening is best spent quietly at home.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21): Arrange your financial situation so that you can save more money for needed recreation, and try to be financially helpful to your mate. Be considerate and kind.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21): Invite some interesting people into your home, but only those who you truly like. Be courteous and kind, and you can reap some really big rewards.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21): If you would simply take the time to plan things out, some intimate desires can become realities. Plan your schedule so that cocktail time can be spent with a friend.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22): By spending just a little more money, you can gain that personal aim quite easily with the help of a family friend. Be generous at a group meeting for a charity.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Use your charm and magnetism to get some fine results and added prestige in the business world. Some introductions by a superior

could be rewarding.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Get the OK of an expert, or a new plan could lose you a good deal of money. Listen, also, to your mate's advice, and turn possible failure into a big success.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): If you enlist the aid of a good friend, a promise can be kept easily. Do something in the evening which will please your mate even though it may bore you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): Get a credit difficulty nicely settled by using tact and a little flattery. Get some advice from an associate which can help you get a public project moving rapidly.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): Some new business methods can help you improve profits and shine in the eyes of superiors. Although you feel that a trip should be cancelled, it won't be.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20): Accept an invitation, but only if it includes your mate, and have a wonderful evening together. Be very careful in any motion today, driving or walking.

YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY
He or she will have much love for home and kin, and will do best when operating from that sphere. Much success can be wrought in such professions as home management, real estate, etc. Teach your progeny while young to keep the business and personal aspects of life well separated. Ethical and moral training are a must here.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!
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FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1987

From the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Get any important matters settled early. A few compliments would help in this area. If you delay, later on you'll have trouble expressing yourself and probably be ignored. Try to remain cheerful.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): Show more affection for those who mean a great deal to you. It is not a good idea to try forcing your opinions on anyone. Formulate a good plan first. Drive carefully today.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20): Morning is the best time to solve a troubling family matter. Don't let a friend hurt your feelings with comments which are unintentional. Don't entertain guests.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21): Don't be annoyed by gossip or criticism which should be ignored. If going on a trip, leave early since heavy traffic will annoy you. The evening brings happiness.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21): Get a financial difficulty settled early. You'll feel confident and distracted later. Look around your home for possible repairs, but don't begin them.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21): A charming attitude this morning will get you some favors you need. It would be most unwise to criticize a friend this afternoon. Avoid socializing this evening. Get some rest.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22): Don't let your happiness over a private matter prevent you from handling outside duties. Take no unnecessary risks. Avoid hurting your mate's feelings.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): An early morning surprise will please you, but your mood could be brought down by friends. Postpone those social engagements; relax and

get some rest.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): The morning is the best time to ask for favors from a superior. Handle a credit matter in a nice, peevish and businesslike manner. Don't lose your temper today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Reply favorably to a letter from afar. Later, continue operating sensibly, and make no changes in your routine. Postpone that little trip until a later time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): Settle an outstanding account, and show those you deal with that you keep your word honestly. Should your mate feel lonely, you must remain calm and poised.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): Don't become involved in any alliances which you don't feel comfortable about. If you must handle any public affairs, strike while the iron is still hot.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20): You can accomplish a great deal today if you begin with home improvements and then move on to outside matters. Stay at home this evening and be happy.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY
He or she will live graciously in early childhood and have amazing good fortune. A fine education is absolutely necessary, and your progeny could do quite well in government work, whether male or female. Be sure to give your son or daughter plenty of encouragement for a job well done or discouragement will result.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!
© 1987, McNaught Synd.

British brewing company to run international Holiday Inn hotels

LONDON (R) — Bass Plc, a big British brewing firm, said on Tuesday it is buying into 178 Holiday Inn hotels in a \$475 million deal that means it will run all Holiday Inns outside the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Only two weeks ago, Ladbroke Group, a British property and leisure firm that made its name in the betting shop and casino business, bought the Hilton International hotel chain for \$1.06 billion.

British businesses, flush with cash and riding a stock market boom, have been snapping up U.S. firms or their assets all year.

For Bass, the deal allows it "to join the select band of major international hotel companies and enjoy a brand name with worldwide recognition," said group managing director, Mr. Ian Prosser.

Bass is acquiring from Holiday Corporation of the United States five wholly-owned hotels and its franchise, management or joint venture interests in 135 other hotels outside the United States. Bass also bought into 25 projects under development.

The transaction also includes 13 hotels in the states of Florida, Tennessee and South Carolina.

Holiday Corporation will use its proceeds from the deal to reduce debt and develop its North American interests.

Bass already owns 120 hotels in Britain and Continental Europe. Its new deal includes 59 hotels in Europe, 11 in the Middle East, 25 in Africa, 30 in the Far East and Australia and 15 in Caribbean and Latin America.

The British, in the heyday of empire, dotted the globe with famous hotels. But after World

War II, U.S. hoteliers made the running, led by the late Conrad Hilton who tapped a market among a new generation of globe trotting Americans.

The British started a comeback when Grand Metropolitan bought the Intercontinental chain from Pan Am in 1981.

But the British are not just looking at hotels.

This summer, Hanson Trust Plc announced it would buy U.S. consumer products firm Kidde Inc. in a \$1.8 billion deal, the British employment agency Blue Arrow Plc bid \$1.2 billion for Manpower Inc. and National Westminster Bank Plc bought a New Jersey bank for \$820 million.

Earlier this year, British Petroleum bought out all the other shareholders in Standard Oil Co. for \$7.8 billion.

Inflation in Israel reaches 20%

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel said on Tuesday the cost of living rose 1.2 per cent in August, bringing the rate for the last 12 months to 20 per cent.

The Central Bureau of Statistics said the relatively sharp increase, compared to a year-low of 0.2 per cent last month, was due to price rises for fruits and vegetables as well as higher public transport costs.

In August 1986, inflation was 1.1 per cent. Inflation for the first eight months of this year was 10.1

per cent.

Meanwhile, Israel's United Mizrahi Bank introduced a limited form of forward trading in Israel's shekel currency based on the Bank of Israel's official representative exchange rate for the dollar.

The move is a cautious step towards liberalising foreign exchange regulations which bar private citizens from holding hard currency.

The Bank of Israel fixes its rates daily but fluctuations are

marginal. The shekel has been pegged since January 1987 against a basket of currencies in which the dollar accounts for 60 per cent and the West German mark 20 per cent.

U.S. banks lose record \$10 billion

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. commercial banks reported record losses of \$10.6 billion between April and June mainly because of problem loans to Third World countries, the government said on Tuesday.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp (FDIC) said the loss was the result of the nation's largest banks setting aside huge reserves from their profits to cover potential losses on the loans to developing countries.

For the year as a whole, profits at the nation's 14,000 commercial banks are likely to be the lowest since 1934, FDIC officials said at a news conference.

The second-quarter loss was expected since individual banks had already reported quarterly financial results that reflected the impact of the loan-loss provisions.

FDIC Chairman William Seidman said the industry had probably passed its worst quarter. The large provisions against loan losses would not be repeated and may have strengthened the industry in the long run, he said.

However, he said banks were continuing to fail at a record rate, reflecting the impact of regional economic problems on small banks.

A total of 126 banks have failed so far this year, compared to 138 in 1986, with the greatest number in the southwest and midwest. Mr. Seidman predicted 200 banks would be closed by end of 1987.

Banks set aside an unprecedented \$21.2 billion to protect against future losses on foreign loans, primarily to Brazil.

Report paints gloomy picture of world economy

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) reported Tuesday a slowing of growth in industrial countries, a decline in real primary commodity prices, a widening of external imbalances, an intensification of protectionist measures, and a further deterioration in the external financial situation of many developing countries.

In its annual report covering 1986 and the early part of 1987, the IMF said there was sharp deterioration in many countries' terms of trade resulting from the decline in the prices of oil and non-oil commodities relative to manufactures.

The consequent loss in export receipts led not only to a worsening of the current accounting positions but also a weakening of fiscal revenues, the report said.

At the same time, it said, net private international lending to developing countries, which had been shrinking since the onset of the debt crisis in 1982, fell even more in 1986.

"In the fuel exporting countries, the loss of revenue from lower oil prices led to cutbacks in government expenditures and in imports, especially for those countries with a limited capacity to borrow or to liquidate foreign assets," it said.

On the positive side, the report noted that the decline in international interest rates during 1986 eased the pressure on developing countries with a large amount of floating rate debt.

"For a number of oil importing developing countries, notably some Asian exporters of manufactures, the decline in interest rates and oil prices permitted an easing of restrictive fiscal stances and the achievement of improved creditworthiness through reserves accumulation and debt repayments," the report said.

The report noted that these benefits did not extend to low-income countries in Africa, which incurred sizeable losses in export receipts and in associated fiscal revenues, although the implementation of structural adjustment measures in these countries appeared to have strengthened in 1986.

The IMF said that a plan to forge closer links between the economic policies of top industrial nations may be in danger of stalling almost before it gets started.

The IMF will play a key role in the effort to get nations to see that their economies, measured by key indicators, perform in line with agreed expectations embodied in IMF forecasts.

The mere fact that finance ministers will discuss it in forthcoming talks is a step forward, U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker says.

"We are a heck of a lot better off today than we were a year and a half ago, when — I can promise you — we didn't have meaningful meetings," Mr. Baker said this week.

"We had a little 'tour de table' where everybody recited what their economies' prospects were,

but there wasn't any serious discussion of efforts at coordination," he added.

Economists say that if leading non-communist industrial nations did harmonise policy, it could be good news for jobs and living standards everywhere.

The president challenge is to correct the United States' huge trade deficit in a way that does not tilt the rest of the world into recession.

The IMF still thinks Japan, West Germany and others should stoke up demand in their economies, which can be done by tax and interest rate cuts and other measures.

Stronger West German and Japanese demand would help the United States cut its trade deficit, boosting their imports of U.S. goods, and would take up the slack for other countries which might suffer as the United States cut imports.

The IMF also says the United States should cut the huge budget deficit which it is also running. Many economists say tax hikes and government spending restraint would help cut imports to the United States.

This prescription has already been agreed by the three nations. Japan, however, says it has done enough. West Germany fears inflation if it lets too much money slosh through its economy and argues it is doing all it can.

Washington insists it has cut its budget deficit this year.

Yet the U.S. trade deficit still runs at record levels.

And statements by Washington, Tokyo and Bonn suggest they may ignore IMF advice and differ sharply on what to do next in talks among finance ministers late next week.

Monetary officials say the IMF will present detailed forecasts of economic indicators and analysis of the economies of the group of seven nations — the United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada — at the talks.

S. Korea targets exports at \$51b

SEOUL (AP) — The trade and industry ministry has set South Korea's export target for 1988 at \$51 billion, up 15.9 per cent from this year's adjusted target of \$44 billion, officials said Tuesday.

The ministry officials said the government aims at \$45 billion in imports, which would leave a trade surplus of \$6 billion next year.

To help attain the export target, officials said the government plans to provide incentives such as stabilising the exchange rate of Korea's won currency against the U.S. dollar at the

present level, maintaining export support financing and providing tax breaks and tariff cuts.

Washington has been pressuring Korea to let the won appreciate to help reduce its growing trade surplus with the United States, which stood at \$7.3 billion last year.

The ministry officials said the government's planned measures are necessary to help Korean industries rebuild export competitiveness that has been weakened by sharp hikes resulting from a recent wave of strikes.

Both German and Japanese officials meanwhile reply that the Reagan administration has been unable to strike a budget deficit agreement with Congress.

"We are delivering what we are supposed to deliver," Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa told Reuters.

The IMF foresees only 1.5 per cent German growth this year, a figure that underscores the U.S. argument that not enough is being done to reduce the German trade surplus by expanding domestic demand in the country.

Japan, which the IMF predicts will grow 3.2 per cent this year and 3.4 per cent in 1988, does not want to draw attention to itself. It says it has done enough to bolster domestic demand and make its prosperity depend less than now on a tidal wave of exported cars, televisions and other Japanese goods.

"We are delivering what we are supposed to deliver," Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa told Reuters.

Both German and Japanese officials meanwhile reply that the Reagan administration has been unable to strike a budget deficit agreement with Congress.

Peanuts



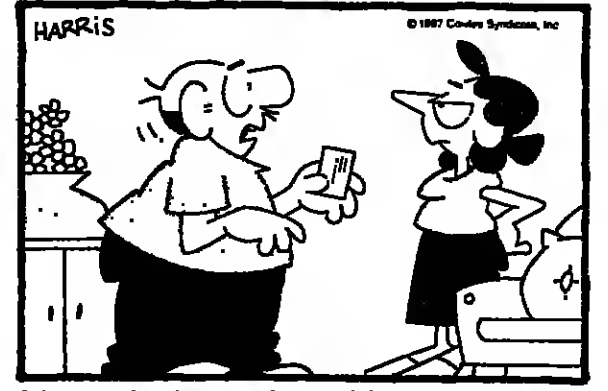
Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



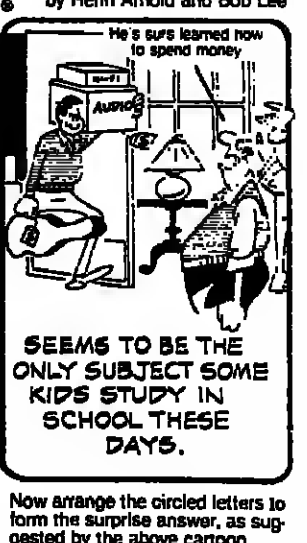
THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ACOOC
JOUNB
YURNUL
EXGONY



Answer here: "COOL - CASHES"
(Answers tomorrow)
Yesterday's Jumbles: GULCH LEAKY ARTERY CASHEW
Answer: That indecisive wimp was always worrying about this — THE "WHETHER"

Indian general promises to protect Sri Lankans from militant Tigers

COLOMBO (R) — A top Indian general promised on Wednesday to protect Sri Lankans from marauding Tamil militants who massacred 75 people.

But General Dipinder Singh, commander of the Indian army's Southern Command, gave no assurance that his peace-keeping troops would disarm the gunmen.

Gen. Singh, who is based in Madras, told civic leaders in Sri Lanka's eastern district of Batticaloa he was ready to send extra troops to prevent more massacres by the militant Tamil Tigers group.

He flew in to meet 40 Tamil and Muslim civil leaders soon after suspected Tigers gunmen claimed another victim, with the murder of a local government official in the tense district.

Simultaneously, 500 angry women and schoolchildren paraded through Batticaloa to protest at the violence between the rival Tamil groups that has claimed nearly 150 lives in north and eastern Sri Lanka in two weeks.

The killings have aroused fears for the future of the island's seven-week-old peace accord that ended four years of fighting between Tamil separatists and government forces.

The marchers shouted and waved banners saying "don't kill innocent people," "keep the peace" and "settle problems" as they passed Tigers office in the city, a Reuters photographer reported.

A participant at the meeting told Reuters Gen. Singh gave no assurance that his peace-keeping troops would seize arms the militants have failed to surrender under the peace pact.

Gen. Singh is the superior officer of Maj.-Gen. Harkirat Singh, commander of 8,000 Indian soldiers sent to enforce the Indo-Sri Lankan pact and supervise the surrender of weapons by Tamil groups.

The militants have surrendered only part of their arsenal and the violence between them has put the Indians under mounting pressure to go out and seize the rest.

"We felt disappointed that there was nothing really new," a participant at the meeting told

Reuters. "Singh just repeated that they are determined to restore peace and get the accord properly established."

However, Gen. Singh promised his men would make their presence felt more decisively, quickly answering calls for help and sending patrols to remote trouble spots.

He said he had already summoned Tigers leader Velupillai Prabhakaran and discussed Sunday's violence, in which the Tigers slaughtered unarmed members of three rival Tamil groups.

Meanwhile Indian troops fought a gunbattle with Tamil Tigers militants, police said on Wednesday.

But they said killings were continuing with the murder at midnight of a government official by suspected members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in Batticaloa.

The dead man was identified as W. Vicknaraja, the assistant government agent of the town of Sammanthurai, who was shot at midnight while asleep at his home.

In Colombo, an Indian diplomat told Reuters that Indian troops fought a gunbattle with

Tigers militants on Tuesday in Batticaloa district.

"Some people fired at the Indian peacekeeping force on patrol and we fired back," the diplomat said.

She said no Indian soldier was wounded in the incident at Eravur village just north of Batticaloa City but had no further details.

However, the clash did not mean the 8,000 Indian troops in Sri Lanka were now going to fire at any armed militants they saw, she said.

Police said about 20 Tigers who were dragging away four members of the rival People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE) fired at Indian soldiers sent on patrol to Eravur after Sunday's massacres across Batticaloa district.

The Indians fought back, wounding a Tiger who they arrested with two others.

The rest fled, police said. However, the Indian diplomat's comments appeared to indicate that the troops were not about to start a shooting war against the Tigers, who received Indian backing before the peace accord and were the most powerful Tamil group.

Pope visits Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (R) — Pope John Paul swept into America's movie capital with all the style of a seasoned trouper, but he sternly warned media leaders that God would hold them responsible for any abuse of their power.

The report cited, as an example, 258 reports and articles on the pope's visit compiled in 1984 and 1985.

The investigators also found that the Energy Department places no controls on foreign nationals who work on university research projects dealing with reprocessing, even though the projects are funded by the department.

Los Angeles, America's biggest Roman Catholic diocese, gave the Pope the warmest welcome of his tour.

Up to a million people turned out to greet him with hundreds of balloons in the Vatican colours of yellow and white, and 100,000 more attended an evening mass in a giant baseball stadium.

The emotional high point of the Pope's day was a meeting with 25-year-old Tony Melendez, an amnesiac who played guitar at a question-and-answer session with the Pontiff and 8,000 young people.

The Pope, clearly moved, jumped from a stage to embrace and kiss an overwhelmed Melendez.

enter the network from May to September.

Hackers are computer enthusiasts who often try to break into private computer systems for the challenge or for criminal gain.

The NASA system connects more than 1,000 computers worldwide that share information on space research, nuclear physics and molecular biology, ARD said in a report broadcast Tuesday night.

The network includes U.S. atomic research facilities in Los Alamos, New Mexico.

In Washington, NASA said in

a statement that the tapped network provides unclassified information to university and industry researchers.

"We know of no classified information which can be accessed through the network," the statement said.

The statement said NASA uses a number of computer networks with varying degrees of security to provide "appropriate individuals" with access to data.

The Hamburg-based magazine Stern reported information similar to the ARD report in advance telexed to news media Tuesday.

U.N. conference agrees on treaty to protect ozone layer

MONTREAL (R) — United Nations members agreed on Tuesday on a historic pact aimed at protecting the earth's protective ozone layer by restricting production of a common chemical used in aerosol sprays.

Scientists believe that emissions of the chemical — chlorofluorocarbons, commonly known as CFCs — must be significantly cut to prevent what could be catastrophic changes in climate and dramatic increases in skin cancer over the next 50 years.

U.N. science specialist Peter Usher said.

CFCs are used around the world in aerosol sprays, refrigerators and air conditioners, in styrofoam containers and foam insulation, and as solvents for cleaning computer parts.

Scientists believe they drift to the stratosphere, 10 to 30 miles (16 to 50 kilometres) above the earth's surface, where they decompose and erode the ozone layer — a fragile layer of gas that filters out the sun's dangerous ultraviolet rays.

The proposed treaty calls for countries to freeze and then half consumption by the late 1990's. CFC production is a \$2 billion-a-year industry.

Sessions wins unanimous Senate approval as FBI chief

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Senate Judiciary Committee has unanimously approved President Ronald Reagan's nomination of U.S. district Judge William Sessions of Texas as FBI director.

Sessions' overwhelming confirmation by the full Senate was expected later this week.

The committee's vote came during a brief, midday break in its first day of hearings on Mr. Reagan's selection of Robert H. Bork to become a supreme court justice.

"Judge Sessions' extensive law enforcement experience, his commitment to the rule of law and his strong moral character exemplify the type of person who should lead the FBI," said Sen. Joseph R. Biden, a Democrat, the committee chairman.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy said Sessions was an "outstanding choice" to succeed William H. Webster, who left in May after nine years as FBI chief to become director of the CIA after the death of William J. Casey.

Sen. Kennedy said Sessions, chief judge of the U.S. district court in San Antonio, Texas, had made a "very favourable impression" at a one-day confirmation hearing last week with his promise to maintain the FBI's independence from political interference.

Pentagon to speed up 'Star Wars' research

WASHINGTON (R) — The Pentagon is preparing to speed up research on President Reagan's "Star Wars" anti-missile plan despite Soviet objections to the programme, U.S. Defence officials said on Tuesday.

They said Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger planned to announce his decision this week on recommendations by Pentagon experts to speed work in several key areas of the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), commonly known as "Star Wars."

The officials, who asked not to be identified, spoke with Reuters as Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze held meetings in Washington with President Reagan and other U.S. officials on nuclear arms control and other issues.

The Defence officials denied published reports that an

announcement of the latest SDI move was being delayed until later in the week, after Mr. Shevardnadze and his high-level party leave Washington, to protect Soviet sensibilities.

"The paper work is simply not ready," Mr. Weinberger doesn't operate like that," said one Pentagon official.

"Both the president and the secretary are determined that we go ahead with SDI despite Soviet objections — objections which the secretary pointed out this week are 'blatant hypocrisy'," said another official.

The United States has been conducting research for four years into possible ground and space-based weapons which could lead to deployment of at least a preliminary system to shoot down attacking nuclear missiles as early as the mid-1990s.

5 military astronauts assigned to 2nd post-Challenger flight

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — Five military astronauts were named Tuesday to fly the second post-Challenger space shuttle flight, which will be a secret U.S. Defence Department mission.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced it had selected Navy Cmdr. Robert L. Gibson, a veteran of two shuttle flights, to command the crew.

The others are Air Force Lt. Col. Guy S. Gardner, Air Force

Col. Richard M. Mullane, Air Force Lt. Col. Jerry L. Ross and Navy Cmdr. William M. Shepard. Col. Gardner will be the pilot, the others will be mission specialists, working with the payload.

Col. Mullane and Col. Ross each have flown on one previous shuttle mission. Col. Gardner and Cmdr. Shepard will be making their first trip.

The flight is scheduled in September 1988.

E. German named president of U.N. General Assembly

UNITED NATIONS (R) — East German Deputy Foreign Minister Peter Florin, who fought alongside Soviet partisans in World War II, was elected president of the General Assembly at its opening meeting on Tuesday.

Florin, 65, whose family fled to France and then the Soviet Union when Hitler came to power in 1933, addressed the Assembly in Russian, one of the U.N.'s six official languages.

"To reduce the nuclear threat to mankind is no longer a utopian dream," he said.

"There is now a chance of starting on nuclear disarmament through an agreement on the elimination of the United States and Soviet medium-range missiles."

Mr. Florin was speaking as U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze met in Washington in talks aimed at clearing remaining obstacles to a treaty eliminating intermediate-range nuclear weapons.

In his speech, he also took a swipe at President Reagan's "Star Wars" space-based missile defence system.

"There arms race on earth needs to be halted and reversed... it is logical, then, to take the arms race to outer space," he said. In this session, the General Assembly and its seven main committees will plough through an agenda of more than 140 items touching on most of the world's trouble spots.

U.S. department 'lax' with nuclear technology

WASHINGTON (R) — Countries developing nuclear weapons have routinely gained sensitive nuclear technology because of lax security rules at the U.S. Energy Department, according to a congressional report.

The highly critical report, prepared by the General Accounting Office (GAO), the investigative arm of Congress, found that "countries that pose a proliferation or security risk routinely obtain reprocessing information" published by the Department Of Energy (DOE).

Through reprocessing, plutonium can be separated from used

nuclear fuel. Plutonium is an essential and difficult to obtain element needed for nuclear weapons.

"The Energy Department has been routinely transferring sensitive technology to other nations, which would help them in manufacturing a nuclear bomb," said Sen. William Proxmire, a Wisconsin Democrat who asked for the probe.

"The nations that have been able to cash in on DOE's lax security procedures include the ones that have given the United States some of its biggest proliferation headaches — the People's Republic of China, India, Iraq and Pakistan," said Sen. Proxmire, a member of the Senate Defence Appropriations Subcommittee.

The report cited, as an example, 258 reports and articles on reprocessing compiled in 1984 and 1985.

The investigators also found that the Energy Department places no controls on foreign nationals who work on university research projects dealing with reprocessing, even though the projects are funded by the department.

Hackers break into NASA computer

FRANKFURT, West Germany (AP) — Computer hackers broke into the U.S. space agency's worldwide data network throughout the summer and gathered secret information on space shuttle projects and rocket failures, West German media has said.

News reports said young West Germans gained regular access to at least 20 computers of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and had the ability to paralyse the entire network.

The ARD Television Network said a flaw in the network's security system allowed the hackers to

enter the network from May to September.

Hackers are computer enthusiasts who often try to break into private computer systems for the challenge or for criminal gain.

The NASA system connects more than 1,000 computers worldwide that share information on space research, nuclear physics and molecular biology, ARD said in a report broadcast Tuesday night.

The network includes U.S. atomic research facilities in Los Alamos, New Mexico.

In Washington, NASA said in

Ariane launches 2 satellites after successful take off

KOUROU, French Guiana (R) — The European space rocket Ariane launched two telecommunications satellites into orbit on Tuesday, in a perfect mission that officials said would restore confidence in Europe's space industry after a 15-month enforced delay.

The 50-metre high rocket thundered into the tropical night skies of South America from its jungle launch pad at 9:45 p.m. (0045 GMT), after a technical hitch came within two minutes of forcing a 48-hour postponement of the mission.

"We were holding our breath, but at last we made it," said a jubilant Frederick d'Allest, president of ArianeSpace.

A faulty electrical circuit giving false information forced the countdown to be stopped six minutes before the scheduled launch.

With less than two hours to solve the problem before it became impossible to launch the two satellites stored inside the rocket, technicians in Kourou and at the European Space Agency's base in France worked in a frenzy to detect the fault.

"We finally worked out that the circuit was faulty and that there was absolutely no problem with the rocket so we let her go," said one launch official.

The rocket was finally launched with only two minutes to spare before the "launch window" closed after a 90-minute delay.

Satellite operators cheered and applauded in the Kourou Space Centre control room as Australian and Western European telecommunications satellites were slipped into orbit.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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JUST A BIT OF CARE

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ Q94
♥ A109
♦ KJ4
♣ A863

EAST
♠ J102
♥ QJ32
♦ Q983
♣ 87662

SOUTH
♠ AKB65
♥ K976
♦ A10
♣ QJ

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Pass
5 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass
Opening lead: Four of ♠

The 10th European Junior Championship, limited to players under 25, was won by the Netherlands. It was a fitting reward for a country most active in promoting bridge for young players.

The competitors might have

been young in years and experience, but they left no doubts about their skill. On this board from the Sweden-Great Britain match, North-South did well to reach a small slam in spades. In their methods, South's rebid of two hearts was forcing, and 2 cue-bidding sequence followed.

West led a club and declarer ran it to the jack. His problem was his fourth heart. One way to handle that would be to duck a heart, draw two rounds of trumps and then cash the ace-king of hearts. That would succeed if the hearts were 3-3 or if the player with four hearts held three trumps. But it could be fatal since it exposes you to a defensive ruff.

The Swedish declarer found a superior line. He drew three rounds of trumps, cashed the ace of clubs and ruffed a club back to hand. With East marked with nothing but red cards left, declarer simply led a heart and, when West followed with a low card, he inserted the eight. East won a cheap heart trick, but he was ended. Play. No matter which suit he returned, it would be into a tenace and would present declarer with the extra trick he needed to fulfill his slam.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Etkens

LAURELS

By Grace C. Plakston

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Sour | 1 All right | 1 Cook | 1 One way to sit |
| 2 Verbal blind | 2 Diner | 2 Perform | 2 Summer: Fr. |
| 3 Auto type | 3 Tarn | 3 Part of AWOL | 3 Initial |
| 4 King of Israel | 4 1988 notable | 4 Like some | 4 Portion |
| 5 Cent's river | 5 Commence | 5 Turn | 5 Dumb |
| 6 — thru | 6 Garlands | 6 Like some | 6 Happening of |
| 7 Entertain | 7 — gratis | 7 Turn | 7 Pasover feast |
| 8 Desert shelter | 8 — to | 8 Turn | 8 Acting award |
| 9 1974 notable | 9 Complicated | 9 Turn | 9 Unlabeled |
| 10 1981 notable | 10 Eastern VP | 10 Turn | 10 Weighty volume |
| 11 1972 notable | 11 Noblesman: Fr. | 11 Turn | |
| 12 Climbing plants | 12 Residue | 12 Turn | |
| 13 Curtains math | 13 "Liesure is — | 13 Turn | |
| 14 quantity | 14 (Pound) | 14 Turn | |
| 15 Grown-up | 15 Gossamer name | 15 Turn | |
| 16 Villain's | 16 Major | 16 Turn | |
| 17 Ventilate | 17 Mythematics | 17 Turn | |
| 18 Hanky | 18 Fine tuner: | 18 Turn | |
| 19 Ringer | 19 var. | 19 Turn | |
| 20 Musical Isaac | 20 1945 and 1948 | 20 Turn | |
| 21 1945 and 1948 | 21 Mountain | 21 Turn | |
| 22 Prompt | 22 Bartok | 22 Turn | |
| 23 1946 notable | 23 Monogram part: | 23 Turn | |
| 24 1974 notable | 24 — Brit | 24 Turn | |
| 25 1981 notable | 25 1970 notable | 25 Turn | |
| 26 1972 notable | 26 1970 notable | 26 Turn | |
| 27 1974 notable | 27 1970 notable | 27 Turn | |
| 28 1974 notable | 28 1970 notable | 28 Turn | |
| 29 1974 notable | 29 1970 notable | 29 Turn | |
| 30 1974 notable | 30 1970 notable | 30 Turn | |
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| 85 1974 notable | 85 1970 notable | 85 Turn | |